

Hafa Adai!

Man arrested for hitting another man with crowbar. **PAGE 2**

Victim in assault case vs. Rep. Camacho unavailable for trial. **PAGE 4**

\$1

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Bill appropriating \$5.2M to pay retirees' 25% pension now law

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Acting governor David M. Apatang signed into law yesterday a bill that will appropriate \$5.2 million of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for payment of the 25% pension benefits for all government retirees.

This developed after the House of Representatives
See **PENSION** on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting governor David M. Apatang yesterday afternoon signed into law a bill that will appropriate \$5.2 million of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for payment of the 25% pension benefits for all government retirees. The House of Representatives passed the Senate version of the legislation during an emergency session yesterday morning.

THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH GOOGLE

Palacios says CNMI to have unprecedented access to high-speed internet

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios announced yesterday a landmark partnership with iconic and global technology leader, Google, with the introduction of the first-ever fiber optic cable to land in the CNMI.

The cable project named Proa, which is said to be a testament to technological advancement and cross-sector collaboration, promises to revolutionize connectivity across the CNMI, offering residents unprecedented



Palacios

See **PALACIOS** on Page 4

CNMI GOP endorses King-Hinds for US delegate

In a significant development ahead of the scheduled April 13, 2024 primary election, the CNMI Republican Party is proud to announce attorney Kimberly King-Hinds as the official Republican



King-Hinds

candidate for the November election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

This announcement comes following John Oliver Gonzales' decision to withdraw from the primary contest.

Upon receiving official communication from Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, chairman of the Committee to Elect Gonzales for Congress, confirming Gonzales' withdrawal, the CNMI Republican Party took decisive action.

See **DELEGATE** on Page 4

Zajradhara sues NMC for \$100M

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After the Northern Marianas College filed a complaint against him along with a temporary restraining order, Zaji Zajradhara has taken to the U.S District Court for the

NMI accusing NMC of violating his civil rights on top of other allegations.

Last Tuesday, Zajradhara filed a complaint against NMC at the federal court and is seeking relief in the form of \$100 million.

Zajradhara's complaint

against NMC comes over a week after the college filed its TRO, permanent injunction, and harassment complaint against him in behalf of the Small Business Development Center.

According to Zajradhara's
See **ZAJRADHARA** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

From working alongside the school principal to helping coach teachers, supporting students learn, and responding to every parent's needs, school vice principals do a lot of work that makes up the main chunk of their time as "support system of the school."

PAGE 13



BUSINESS

It's one of those hidden gems on island and whether you're looking for something salty, sweet, cold, or hot, or even a friendly hello, Ben-Ki Store in Dandan is definitely a must stop if you're in the area.

PAGE 14



LIFE & STYLE

Warner Bros. isn't resting on its "Barbie" laurels: The 100-year studio has its sights on a record-breaking 2024 as well, with a release slate that includes a new Mad Max film, "Furiosa," Kevin Costner's two-part Western epic, "Horizon: An American Saga," the "Beetlejuice" sequel, and "Joker: Folie à Deux," which brings Lady Gaga to Gotham City.

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Local

Man arrested for hitting another man with crowbar

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

A man was arrested over the weekend for allegedly hitting another man on the head with a crowbar in a fit of rage.

Over the weekend, Lucky Michael Chipuelong was arrested for allegedly hitting another man's head and body multiple times with a crowbar. Due to the alleged assault, the victim sustained a 3-inch laceration on the head.

Chipuelong, 36, has since been charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

During his bail hearing last Monday before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, a \$10,000 cash bail was imposed on Chipuelong.

After the bail hearing, Chipuelong was remanded back to Department of Corrections' custody and was or-

dered to return to court for a preliminary hearing on April 17 while his arraignment was set for April 22.

According to court documents, the victim told police that he was drinking with another person at an apartment in San Antonio when Chipuelong approached him with a crowbar and began hitting him on his head and body.

The victim added he and Chipuelong had known each other for more than 10 years, and he was surprised by the attack.

Police said the victim complained of severe pain in his left rib area and a bad headache during an interview in the emergency room of the hospital.

Chipuelong, for his part, told investigators that he was angry at a friend for using money to buy beer for the victim instead of buying food for his kids.

He said he wanted to teach the two men a lesson so he took out his anger on the victim. He also admitted using a crowbar to hit the victim.

A witness told police that Chipuelong walked up the

See **CROWBAR** on Page 4

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Victim in assault case vs. Rep. Camacho unavailable for trial

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The bench trial for Rep. Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), whose trial was initially set for July 2023, has been moved again, this time because the victim is reportedly unavailable due to health issues. Camacho’s trial date has been moved anew based on

recent developments in his ongoing criminal case. The development, court documents state, is that the victim—Steven Koch—is in the U.S mainland for treatment after he was diagnosed with pulmonary embolism with deep vein thrombosis. During a pre-trial conference last March 26, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Gov-

endo ordered the prosecution to file an official motion to move the victim in the case against Camacho—Steven Koch—unavailable for trial before the trial date which was last April 8. Last Monday, the prosecution, headed by Chief Criminal Prosecutor Chester Hinds, filed its motion asking that the court declare Koch unavailable for trial and asked that the court al-

low the prosecution to introduce nontestimonial hearsay statements of the victim instead. “Sometime in 2022, Mr. Koch’s health began to fail. He has had health issues in the past. Mr. Koch went to the states to confirm if these issues were returning. While in the states Mr. Koch was diagnosed with a pulmonary embolism with deep vein thrombosis. In a letter from

that the Mr. Koch shouldn’t fly until clotting issue is resolved,” the motion stated.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CPA, Air Force to host community day this weekend

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Before bidding the CNMI adieu, the U.S. Air Force servicemen who have been on Saipan for the past week pursuant to the annual Agile Reaper exercise will be hosting a community day this Saturday in collaboration with the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The upcoming community day, set for Saturday, April 13, will give members of the community a chance to ask servicemen questions about the recent exercises, the capabilities of the jets used during the exercise, and to take a look inside. According to a press release from CPA, the community day event will be from 10am to 4pm with the entrance gates

closing by 3:30pm. Entrance will be at the gate located south of the Departure Terminal. Parking will be available in the main parking lot or on the grassy areas across from the entrance. “Please provide a valid Photo ID to sign in before entering. Parents and guardians would be able to vouch and remain responsible for

their children upon entering. We advise the public to bring your own umbrella, and that there are no restrooms available during this event. Upon entering, please remain within the coned designated areas and kindly cooperate with the staff and military personnels during this event,” said CPA.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ZAJRADHARA
From page 1

suit, he alleges violation of his civil rights, denied access to federally funded programs, public humiliation, mental anguish, pain and suffering, false allegations/slander, attempted false arrest, extortionist threats, and retaliation. “Since 2018-2019, NMC-SBDC has denied me access to education opportunities and access to federally funded programs and service.

These denials have caused me financial, emotional, mental, and physical suffering and hardship not only to myself, but my business and my children,” he claims. The court has yet to rule on whether Zajradhara may proceed with his suit in forma pauperis, without a fee. Last April 1, NMC, through attorney Mark Scoggins, filed for a temporary restraining order and permanent injunction against Zajradhara for harassing SBDC employees since 2022.

Specifically, NMC wants the court to prohibit Zajradhara from communicating with the SBDC or its employees by any method and for any reason, and from coming within 500 yards of the SBDC or any of its events. In addition, NMC is suing Zajradhara in Superior Court for undetermined damages to be proven at trial. The reason NMC has taken legal action against Zajradhara, the lawsuit said, is because SBDC and its employees have suffered

emotional injury due to his conduct, damage to their reputations, and have been forced to spend an inordinate amount of time and energy dealing with his abusive and harassing conduct. According to the lawsuit, Scoggins explains that Zajradhara, for years, has tried to extract funds from entities by accusing them of discrimination.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PALACIOS
From page 1

access to high-speed internet. Proa is a traditional sailing vessel symbolic of the CNMI’s local culture and heritage. According to the Office of the Governor, the introduction of Proa signifies a leap into the future of digital infrastructure, ensuring that the CNMI remains at the forefront of technological innovation. Under the project, a subsea cable will be laid down from

Japan to the CNMI. It’s the first cable that is a direct connection as all other fiber lines come from Guam. As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get information from the Office of the Governor as to how much the Proa project will cost the CNMI. Palacios said this fiber optic cable project is more than just an infrastructural development, it is a beacon of progress, offering CNMI residents improved access to educational resources, healthcare services, and

global markets. “It paves the way for economic growth, enhances disaster resilience, and solidifies the CNMI’s position in the digital age,” Palacios said. The governor extended the Commonwealth’s deepest gratitude to Google for the company’s collaboration and to everyone involved in making this vision a reality. He said the Proa project is a shining example of what can be achieved when innovation meets determination and is but one in a series of future subsea connections

the CNMI anticipates in the next few years. Glen Hunter, who is the special assistant for the Broadband Policy and Development Office, stated that what seemed impossible became a tangible reality through unwavering focus and dedication. Hunter said prior to the governor’s intervention, the dream of achieving such advanced connectivity was just that—a dream.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PENSION
From page 1

passed the bill with Senate amendments during an emergency session yesterday morning. Apatang informed the Legislature that he signed House Bill No. 23-104, HD1, SD1, into Public Law No. 23-18. Palacios said in a statement that he is glad that the Legislature acted swiftly and decisively in passing the bill that would allow the continuation

of payment of the 25% pension benefits to retirees. Palacios said since the beginning of this administration, he and Apatang have been committed to continuing the 25% pension payments to the retirees. He said they thanked the House and Senate members for their work in expediting the passage of the legislation, which also demonstrates the Legislature’s efforts to ensure the financial security of many individuals who have dedicated their careers to public service.

Palacios reiterated his previous statement that the leaders of the CNMI bear a collective obligation to safeguard the retirees’ benefits and give them the financial peace of mind they deserve. “The legislation sends a clear message to our retirees: we value your service, and we will continue to work together to protect our retirees’ livelihoods,” Palacios said. With all 17 House members present during an emergency session voting “yes,” House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez

(Ind-Saipan) said the House accepts the Senate’s amendments and because of that House Bill No. 23-104, HD1, SD1, hereby passes the House. Rep. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan) did not vote as he is a retiree, *Saipan Tribune* learned. Reps. Denita K. Yangetmai (D-Saipan) and Roy Christopher A. Ada (R-Saipan) were absent but excused from the session.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Rudnytsky concludes another successful and enjoyable visit

The Friends of the Arts wishes to announce the completion of the recent visit by internationally renowned classical pianist Roman Rudnytsky to Saipan and present him with our thanks for the generosity of his time and skills to our community. During his visit, the Saipan community was able to enjoy two special concerts—a rare opportunity to listen to live classical music played by a master pianist. During his two-week visit to Saipan, he also traveled to many of the CNMI’s schools, playing and discussing music with the students. This is Rudnytsky’s 13th trip to the CNMI. The Friends of the Arts, with the help of sponsors from the community, hosted Rudnytsky’s stay.

The Friends of the Arts would like to thank the generous sponsors who made this visit possible: Bridge Capital LLC, IT&E, Hertz Car Rental, KLCarr Construction, Brabu Pharmacy, Dental Care, Triple J Saipan, Everest Kitchen Restaurant, Toothworks Dental Clinic, PHI Pharmacy, Marianas Variety, Angil Design, Paradise Dental Center, Hardt Eye Clinic, JET Realty and J’s Restaurant, Yaong Corp., TransAmerica Saipan, Paradise Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Thompson Law Office, National Office Supply, and HR Support, CNMI. Without their assistance events such as this would not be possible.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DELEGATE
From page 1

President Diego Benavente expressed his congratulations to King-Hinds, recognizing her dedication and readiness to represent the party. “Kimberlyn is a proven advocate with a strong track record in legal practice and federal governance, especially concerning environmental protection, military development, and economic growth,” said Benavente. King-Hinds, having declared her intention to seek the Republican nomination on Feb. 29, 2024, brings extensive experience and a committed vision for the CNMI’s future. Her campaign will focus on key issues that resonate with our community and align with Republican values. In light of Gonzales’ withdrawal, Benavente highlighted the importance of the primary as a platform for voter engagement but affirmed the party’s adherence to its bylaws

and principles. The CNMI Republican Party remains committed to a transparent and inclusive electoral process, inviting all registered voters to participate in shaping the future of the Commonwealth. According to the RPNMIA Bylaws, the party emphasizes the right of its members to vote in primary elections, a principle that will continue to guide the nomination process. In response to the unique circumstances of this election cycle, Benavente announced the cancellation of the primary, with King-Hinds standing as the uncontested nominee for U.S. delegate. A formal notification has been sent to King-Hinds, acknowledging her as the CNMI Republican Party’s endorsed candidate. The party looks forward to supporting her candidacy and engaging with the electorate on critical issues facing our Commonwealth. For further inquiries, contact Benavente at the CNMI Republican Party. (PR)

CROWBAR
From page 2

stairs holding a crowbar in his right hand. The witness said he saw Chipuelong approach the victim, who was drinking beer, and swung the crowbar at the victim’s head three times causing the victim to fall to the floor. While the victim was on the floor, the witness said Chipuelong hit the victim again in the rib area.

The witness added he pinned Chipuelong against a metal window frame and had to hold tight to keep Chipuelong from hitting the victim again. Court documents state that another witness came out of the apartment and grabbed the crowbar from Chipuelong before he walked down the apartment stairs and left the area. Chipuelong was later arrested on the rooftop of a building in San Antonio.



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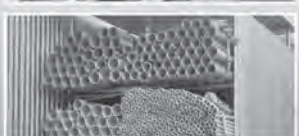


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Fired firefighters file federal suit vs. ex-finance chief

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The firefighters who were terminated for refusing to get vaccinated for COVID-19 have recently filed a federal lawsuit against former Department of Finance secretary David DLG. Atalig over premium pay they were entitled to.

Last Tuesday, the nine firefighters who were terminated back in 2021 for refusing to get COVID-19 vaccinated filed a lawsuit against Atalig over the premium pay they

claim they are entitled to for working during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The plaintiffs are Paul T. Acebedo, Jose K. Angui, Allen T. Calvo, Cain C. Castro, Argernon A. Flores, Derek B. Gersonde, Shawn DLR. Kaipat, Philip M. Kalen, and Adam J. Safer.

The plaintiffs' attorney, Joseph Horey, claims that his clients were deprived their civil rights when they were not given the full \$5,000 premium benefit all first responders were entitled to

during the pandemic.

Specifically, the plaintiffs claim they were only given \$1,000 in premium pay.

"Defendant's actions in approving less than the full \$5,000 amount of premium pay for plaintiffs were without rational basis, and deprived plaintiff of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed to them by the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as applicable to the CNMI via the Covenant, and actionable pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. 13. Defendant's actions were

taken under color of CNMI law," said Horey.

As relief, the plaintiffs want to be paid damages in the amount of the unpaid balance of premium pay due each plaintiff, incidental and consequential damages in an amount to be proved at trial, costs for filing the lawsuit, and attorney's fees.

According to the lawsuit, on or about Dec. 29, 2021, former governor Ralph DLG Torres announced that the Department of Finance would release premium pay for

CNMI government employees who had worked at least 40 hours to directly mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

"According to the announcement, CNMI government employments who had worked on the front lines of the pandemic for at least 40 hours in directly mitigating COVID-19, such as providing prevention, response, preparedness, and recovery services, would receive \$5,000 in premium pay," said the lawsuit.

Each of the plaintiffs, as DFEMS employees, had worked at least 40 hours to directly mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic, said the lawsuit.

"Each of the plaintiffs filled out, and submitted to the Department of Finance, their respective applications for premium pay. Although each of the plaintiffs met all the qualifications for premium pay in the amount of \$5,000, [Atalig] approved premium pay for each of them in the amount of \$1,000 rather than the full \$5,000," said the lawsuit.

The plaintiffs claim that Atalig decided arbitrarily that resigned, terminated, and inactive frontline employees would receive premium pay in the amount of \$1,000 only.

"Plaintiffs, who were no longer employed by the Commonwealth government at the time premium pay was issued, were therefore paid less than full premium pay, notwithstanding the fact that they had already performed the amount of direct pandemic mitigation work required to qualify for full premium payment," they argued.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Email Address: nmtihr@gmail.com

Telephone Number: Tel. (670) 235-6684

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Pacific Realty and Management Corporation

THE POSITION: Accountant

NO. OF VACANCY: 1

JOB SITE: Beach Road, San Antonio (Across Savemore Market (formerly Toha Supermarket), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

JOB DESCRIPTION: Maintain efficient and effective financial systems and procedures; Analyze and journalize business transactions; Post entries of general ledger; Maintain accuracy of general revenue, expenditure ledgers, and subsidiary financial systems; Prepare financial statements following generally accepted accounting principles; Prepare general and subsidiary ledgers and supporting schedules; Maintain books of account such as receipts and disbursement registers; Reconcile financial ledgers, monthly bank statements, and other records; Prepare and monitor cash position of the company on a daily basis and report daily cash balances of the president of the company; Handle bank transactions; Review aging of account payables and receivables; Ensure smooth flow of system and accuracy in the accounting department; Verify all journals, checks, and account payable vouchers, and assess propriety of entries and adequacy of supporting documents; Research and resolve discrepancies; Prepare bank reconciliation and related journal entries; Communicate with managers and operation personnels in creating and implementing various related systems and controls; Prepare payroll; Prepare CNMI and Federal taxes; Handle account receivable ledgers; Make reconciliation and adjustments; Coordinate with external auditors during year-end audits; Compile and prepare supporting schedules, work papers, and financial reports as requested by auditors; Provide assistance to management staff; Provide and interpret fundamental financial data and information to management; Serve as company liaison to various government agencies and private entities with the area of responsibility; and Perform other related duties as may be assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.

EXPERIENCE: Must have at least 60 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant.

HOW TO APPLY: If interested, submit or mail comprehensive resume and supporting credentials to:

NAM-OI BUNPRAKOP
President

PACIFIC REALTY AND MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Office Address: Beach Road, San Antonio (Across Savemore Market (formerly Toha Supermarket) Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mailing Address: PMB 328, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Email Address: pacrealty123@gmail.com

Telephone Number: (670) 234-2259



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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticm.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT #05-2024

Opening date: April 01, 2024

Closing date: April 19, 2024

Location: SAIPAN

SALARY

Position(s): (1) Staff Attorney

UNGRADED

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, April 19, 2024.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerity, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

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LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director



Mount Carmel School

"Educating the whole person to see with Christ's eyes."

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

To provide classroom instruction at the grade level(s) (middle school levels) and in the subject area(s) assigned. To maintain accurate and complete records of each student's academic progress. To submit daily student attendance reports. To submit weekly lesson plans for the next week's instruction. To provide supervision of students during daily break time and lunch hour, and after school while students are waiting for their transportation or during any planned after school activities. To assist with student supervision at school related co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. To perform satisfactorily the duties assigned and to maintain a classroom atmosphere conducive to learning. To support the Catholic Identity of the school by attendance at religious functions. To begin each class period with a prayer. To teach in harmony with the philosophy and Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs) and in conformity with the rules and regulations stated in the School Handbook. To attend and participate in parent/teacher organization meetings. To attend and participate in faculty meetings during and after school hours, and in other professional development meetings as might be called by the school administration. To perform all other duties relating to the school's operation this may be assigned by the Vice Principal/Principal.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in Education or Elementary School Education. Foreign equivalence is acceptable; and
- Must have at least 24 months experience teaching in a classroom setting.

Working Conditions: Full-time (40 hours per week).

Location: Mount Carmel School, Inc. P.O. Box 500006, Knight Street, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

John Blanco, Business Manager
Mount Carmel School, Inc.

P.O. Box 500006

Knight Street, Chalan Kanoa

Saipan, MP 96950

Contact no. 670-234-6184

E-mail: businessmanager@mcsknights.com

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COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JCT Bldg, Unit 6, Satto St. Susupe

P.O. Box 502179 Saipan, MP 96950-2179

T: (670) 235-9820 • (670) 236-9820

E: cnmilaw@nmjjudiciary.com • W: cnmilaw.gov

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

Commonwealth Law Revision Commission

JCT Building II, Unit 6

Susupe, Saipan

Agenda

1. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to Order and Roll Call
 - b. Proof of Notice of Meeting
 - c. Review and Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2023, Regular Meeting
2. Reports of the Executive Director and
 - a. Committees Office & Staff Update
 - b. Publications & Website
 - i. Supreme Court Opinions, Superior Court Orders
 - ii. CMC
 - iii. NMIAAC
 - iv. NMI Reporter
 - v. Driver's Handbook
 - vi. Criminal and Traffic Code Supplement
 - vii. Website
 - c. Sales and Other Reports
 - d. FY 2024 Budget and Expenditures
3. Unfinished Business
4. New Business
5. Public Comment
6. Place and Date of Next Meeting
7. Other Matters

BICYCLES AND TRICYCLES 	BATH TOWELS 	SHOWER CURTAINS 	FASHION JEWELRIES 	PURSES 	
PARTY SUPPLIES 	GLASSWARES 	ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES 	SEIKO WATCHES 	SHOES & SANDALS 	CELLPHONE ACCESSORIES 
WICKER BASKETS 	MENS SHIRTS & SHORTS 	LADIES DRESSES & PANT SETS 	BOYS SHIRTS 	GIRLS DRESSES & SETS 	INFANT DRESSES 



JOETEN 3-DAY SPRING IS HERE SALE

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY, APRIL 12 TO 14, 2024

US CHICKEN HALF CHILLED 	US PORK CHOP 	US PORK SHOULDER STEAK 	NEW ZEALAND BEEF FOR STEW 	NEW ZEALAND GROUND BEEF 
PALM GOLD LABEL CORNED BEEF 11.5oz 	JAMESON IRISH WHISKEY 1 LTR 	CROSS COUNTRY AUSTRALIAN WINE 1.5 LTR 	PURISS SPRING WATER 20/350ml 	JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4 PACK 

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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 74Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Health care is still too costly for Americans

America's approach to health care is an outlier among the world's rich countries, and not in a good way. Extraordinarily complex and hideously expensive, it still manages to leave some 26 million people without coverage. The Affordable Care Act of 2010 made notable progress, but failed to solve the pressing problems of high costs and less-than-universal access.

The ACA fell short partly because legislators dropped the so-called public option. This idea should be revived. The dysfunction in Washington makes such innovation difficult at the federal level, but states have been trying variants. These experiments are worth watching.

The need for more reform is clear. The U.S. spends about 17% of gross domestic product on health care, half as much again as comparable countries—yet on many metrics, including life expectancy, U.S. outcomes are worse. The system's enormous cost is partly hidden because most Americans are insured through their employers: The premiums suppress wages, so the true hit to families' finances is disguised. Even covered employees can be on the hook for additional charges, enough in some cases to pay for a small car.

Workers fear that losing their jobs will mean they lose their insurance too. More than half of the 20 million who've signed up for Obamacare in 2024 complain of high monthly costs and out-of-pocket spending. And despite the ACA, roughly 10% of Americans still have no coverage at all.

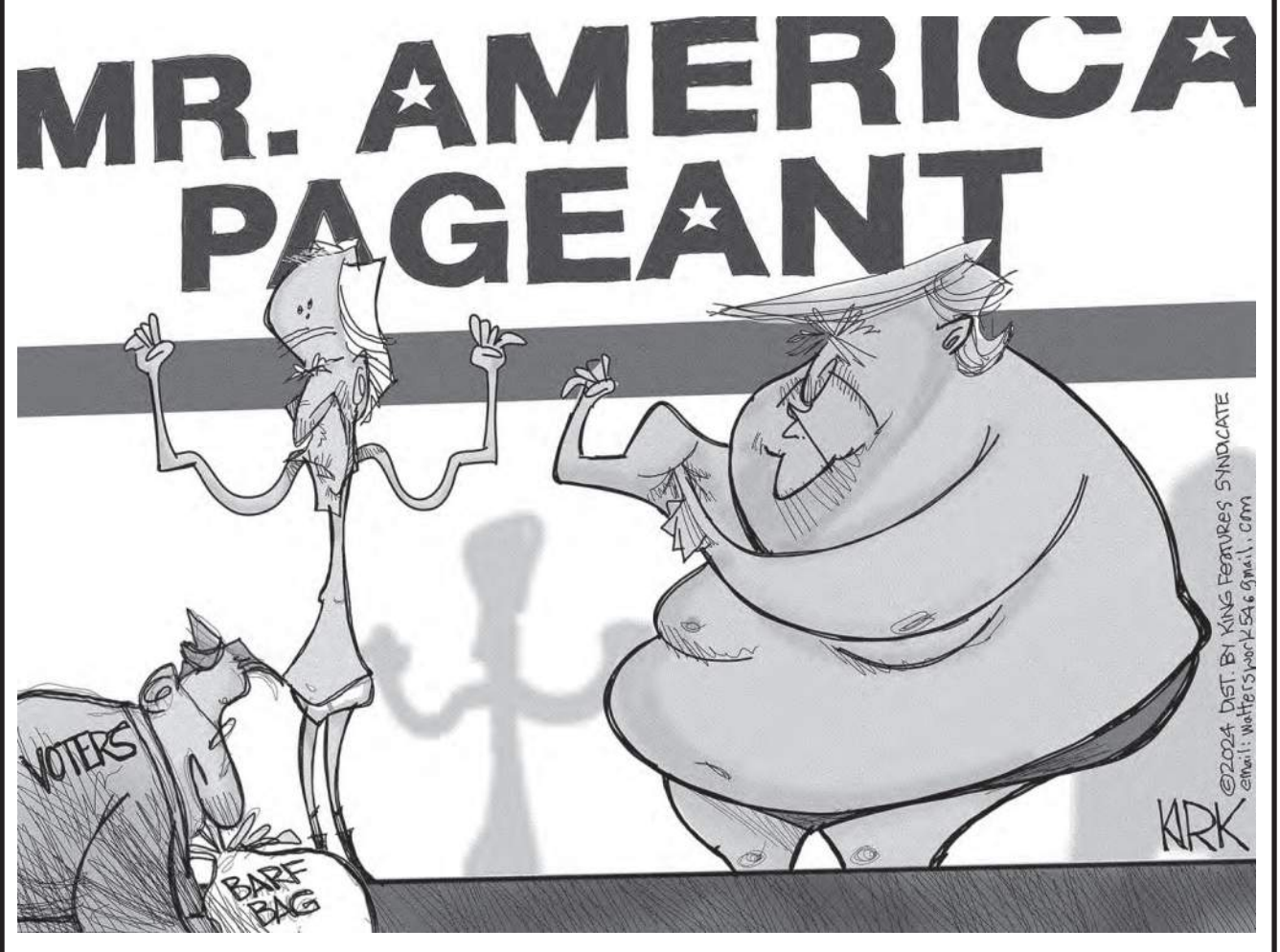
When Obamacare was taking shape, some lawmakers envisioned a public option¹⁶—a government-run plan that would compete alongside private insurance. Like Medicare, it would save money by negotiating prices and cutting costs. Voters liked the idea, but it met stiff industry opposition and was ultimately scrapped. During his presidential campaign a decade later, Joe Biden supported a public option, but his administration has focused on other ways to make health care more affordable.

Yet the public option wasn't quite dead: As a result of the ACA, states have been able to try "innovative strategies" to lower costs and broaden coverage. Three have used it to advance programs they're calling public options, and a handful of others have plans underway.

Colorado's scheme is especially popular, thanks to generous benefits (including free primary and mental-health care) and lower premiums than many marketplace plans. State law requires insurers to meet annual premium-reduction targets, and the insurers negotiate hard with hospitals to cut costs. If they miss the targets, insurers and providers alike can be summoned to public hearings. The state has also introduced a reinsurance program to defray the cost of expensive claims.

Admittedly, schemes like Colorado's depart from the original public-option idea, which relies on competition from a gradually expanding Medicare, not price controls. The old-school public option still has a lot to recommend it: Use Medicare's systems and provider network to gradually extend affordable coverage—with premiums set to recover full actuarial costs, offset by ACA subsidies for eligible households. A plan called Medicare-X, championed by Senators Michael Bennet and Tim Kaine, would

See HEALTH on Page 9



Biden had words with Bibi over Israel's apocalyptic Gaza war. Only action will do

It's a shame upon shame that it took the deaths of six foreigners in Gaza, humanitarian workers for the U.S.-based World Central Kitchen, to finally, maybe, shake President Biden to reconsider his acquiescence—his complicity—in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's apocalyptic war there.

By the time the convoy from chef José Andrés' organization was annihilated by an Israeli drone strike last week—killing three Brits, a Pole, an Australian and a Canadian American, along with a Palestinian driver—nearly 33,000 Gazans were dead after six months of Israel's pummeling, two-thirds of them women and children. More than a million more Gazans, half the strip's population, have been displaced. Most of those refugees have targets on their backs, crowded as they are around Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city, which Netanyahu says is next in his sights despite Biden's talk of "red lines."

There are two more casualties of Netanyahu's war. The first is the global goodwill toward Israel in the immediate aftermath of Oct. 7, when Hamas terrorists from Gaza savagely murdered 1,200 Israelis and took more than 240 hostages, many of whom remain in Hamas' hands. And the second: the international standing of the United States, given Biden's seemingly unquestioning support to date of Israel's right-wing government.

That support is no longer unquestioned, at least. Not since Biden's reportedly tense call with Netanyahu on Thursday in which we're told the president demanded that Israel take "specific, concrete and measurable steps" to alleviate civilian suffering and deaths in Gaza. U.S. policy hinges on Israel's response, Biden told the prime minister. Also, Israel must agree soon to another hostage exchange with Hamas. For the first time, Biden called for "an immediate cease-fire."

Still, so far Biden's words remain just that, words—which the self-regarding Netanyahu will likely dismiss to survive atop his extremist coalition.

For months "Bibi" has snubbed Biden's admonitions to show restraint, to negotiate a hostage swap, to avoid a major assault on Rafah and to stop inhibiting the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza, which now faces famine and the collapse of medical care. But Netanyahu has paid no price for thumbing his nose at the nation that's been Israel's main defender, financial backer and arms supplier for a half-century. Quite the opposite.

On the same day as the World Central Kitchen bloodbath, Biden's State Department reportedly authorized the transfer to Israel of thousands more bombs that Congress had approved

By JACKIE CALMES

Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.



long before the war against Hamas. The administration is now pressing Congress to approve the sale of F-15 fighter jets. The weaponry wouldn't arrive in Israel for years, but that prospect means Netanyahu can wage war now knowing more materiel is in the pipeline.

When the U.S. sells Israel weapons, it does so without conditions; it is the only U.S. ally to get such a deal, and Biden could modify that immediately.

Only a day before Biden's phone call with Netanyahu, national security spokesperson John F. Kirby told reporters the administration was planning no change in its support of Israel. But afterward, Kirby and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken publicly echoed Biden's new message. As Blinken put it, "If we don't see the changes that we need to see, there'll be changes in our own policy."

We're left to wait and see. Martin Indyk, a former Middle East envoy and U.S. ambassador to Israel, predicted we won't wait long. If Netanyahu doesn't soon make some "dramatic moves," he said, "Biden will be required by his own rhetoric to take sanctions."

Note that Indyk said "dramatic moves." That doesn't describe Israel's initial steps. On Friday, Netanyahu's war Cabinet agreed to temporarily open a single new crossing for aid into northern Gaza and to use an Israeli port, Ashdod, to receive assistance. And the Israeli Defense Forces dismissed two officers for the attack on the aid convoy.

Biden, who fully two months ago said Israel's military response to Oct. 7 was "over the top," should not accept Band-Aid measures as compliance. As Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security advisor, wrote, "Bibi obviously doesn't care what the U.S. says, it's about what the U.S. does."

After a half-century at the center of U.S. foreign policy de-

See BIDEN on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Trump tax cuts were neither panacea nor rip-off

Back in 2017, the debate around President Donald Trump's tax cuts was a case study in how quickly a discussion around legitimate policy can descend into partisan nonsense. On one side, Republicans spouted unfounded claims that the tax cuts would pay for themselves. On the other, Democrats spouted equally unfounded claims that only big business and the wealthy would benefit.

As usual, the truth landed somewhere in the middle. No, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 didn't pay for itself but at this moment reversing the marquee part of the legislation—lower tax rates for companies—to help narrow the bulging budget deficit is the last thing we should do. And while the cuts yielded benefits to Americans up and down the income scale, the benefits could best be described as modest.

Understanding what the legislation did and didn't do is relevant now because they expire in 2025, and whoever wins this year's presidential election will have to decide whether to extend them. What's not in dispute is that the act represented the most sweeping overhaul the tax system since the Reagan administration. For businesses, it aimed to spur capital spending by slashing the corporate tax from 35% to 21%. For individuals, it lowered rates across the board and simplified the code by limiting itemized deductions, increasing the standard deduction taken by those who don't itemize and expanding access to the child tax credit.

The problem now is that largely because of fiscal spending to support the economy through the pandemic, the federal budget deficit has expanded to 6.44% of gross domestic product from 4.67% at the end of 2019, which at the time was the biggest shortfall since 2013. Also, the cost of servicing the deficit by borrowing has soared along with benchmark interest rates the last two years. For this reason alone, it's possible some, but not all, the cuts will be reversed. But which ones? Whatever is decided, the corporate cuts are probably the last thing we want to repeal.

Despite the insistence of Republicans, who point to the rise in federal revenue following 2017, we can't shrink the deficit by further reducing taxes. In 2022, federal revenue came in at \$4.9 trillion, far higher than the \$4.2 trillion predicted by the bi-partisan Congressional Budget Office before the tax cuts. Two factors are responsible for the outperformance. One, capital gains tax revenue jumped following the stock market's big rally in 2020 and 2021. Two, a worker shortage during the pandemic caused wages to rise by almost 5% over the course of 2021. Higher wages not only led to higher incomes but also pushed many Americans into higher tax brackets, thereby increasing revenue.

Democrats have described the tax cuts as only benefiting the wealthy. This is also a gross distortion of the facts. Between 2017 and 2019, taxpayers at both the bottom and top of the income scale saw their average tax rate decline by a little less than 1%. Those in between saw more significant reductions, with the upper middle class—defined as those making \$200,000 to \$500,000 a year—seeing their tax rates decline by 2.5%. This reflects the fact that many of them are small business owners who, along with big corporations, received additional tax cuts designed to encourage economic growth.

In theory, cutting taxes on businesses encourages them to expand production because it increases their after-tax profit margins. Hence, companies are more willing to hire workers and invest in new technology or equipment to boost sales, spurring economic growth.

In practice, many Democrats and even some Republicans were concerned that businesses would use those higher profits to fund stock buybacks or higher dividend payouts to investors. Indeed, buybacks did increase sharply after 2017. For example, Apple Inc. doubled stock buybacks as its investment in the US declined. That was a bad look, but it doesn't necessarily mean tax cuts didn't work. If there had been none, Apple might have decided to decrease investment even more to fund stock buybacks.

Teasing out precisely what effect the Trump tax cuts had on a particular company's investment decisions requires a deep dive into financial and tax records. Four economists from Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of Chicago and the US Treasury Department conducted a detailed analysis of more than 12,000 companies. The results released last month found that companies which experienced larger increases in their return on investment as a result of the tax cut, boosted their investment spending by larger amounts.

With their results, the economists calculated the effect lower tax rates had on the broad economy. Their estimates show that from 2018 to 2023, the Trump tax cuts raised annual investment by a little more than 7%. That equates to an additional \$265 billion in private investment in 2023. They also estimated that increased business investment raised the average worker's wages by about 1%—an income boost roughly equal to what millions of Americans got directly from the tax cuts. Yet, the corporate tax cuts cost \$450 billion in the form of decreased federal revenue, compared with \$1.1 trillion for individual tax cuts.

The Trump tax cuts were neither an economic panacea nor

By **KARL W. SMITH**

Bloomberg Opinion

Karl W. Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. Previously, he was vice president for federal policy at the Tax Foundation and assistant professor of economics at the University of North Carolina.



a rip-off. They produced a modest but meaningful increase in income for working Americans, both by reducing their tax burdens and increasing their wages. Lawmakers should keep this in the front of their minds as they debate how much, if any, of those tax cuts to keep.

BIDEN

From page 8

bates, Biden is steeped in this nation's tradition of bipartisan, unwavering support for Israel, even though he's experienced firsthand Netanyahu's proclivity for driving a wedge between our two political parties and humiliating American presidents, especially Democrats.

President Clinton famously groused after being lectured by Netanyahu, "Who the f—does he think he is? Who's the f—superpower here?" In 2015, Netanyahu brazenly addressed Congress at House Republicans' invitation to oppose Obama's multinational nuclear agreement with Iran. And five years earlier, Biden was Netanyahu's victim, when Israel authorized new settlements in the West Bank, in violation of U.S. and international policy, just as the then-vice president arrived in Israel for an official visit.

It's an open secret that Netanyahu would like his fellow right-wing narcissist Donald Trump to return to power; he justifiably assumes Trump would give him carte blanche in Gaza. To that end, Netanyahu welcomes the erosion of Biden's support among Arab Americans and young voters because of the president's backing for Israel.

Biden knows this, yet his support for Israel overrides his domestic political calculations. He also knows, however, that Netanyahu's policies are not in Israel's best interests, or the United States'. He can take actions without waiting for Netanyahu's responses. Such as shelving for now the pending arms transfer and jet sales, or at a minimum, putting strict conditions on their use, as some senators have begun seeking. And getting Netanyahu's assurance that Rafah won't be razed and refugees there displaced yet again.

On Friday, Blinken said "the real test is results" in increased aid to Gaza. That's essential but insufficient. If that's all Thursday's call accomplishes, it's not enough.

HEALTH

From page 8

work in this way. The aim of such proposals isn't to replace private insurance, as some "single payer" schemes envisage, or to regulate some private offerings more tightly state by state (as in Colorado's plan), but to broaden access to affordable choices.

However conceived, public options will face setbacks. Health-care reform is administratively demanding and politically fraught. Absent rules compelling participation, hospitals and providers could refuse to see patients if reimbursement rates fall too low, leaving areas with less coverage and weaker competition. Nobody says this will be easy.

Yet the existing system is undeniably failing. In poll after poll, Americans say rising health-care costs are a top concern. States should keep on trying new approaches to see what works. And Washington should put the Medicare-based public option—perhaps the most promising way to solve the system's biggest problems—back on the agenda.

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NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

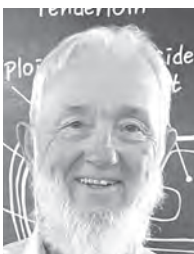
Red Caesarism—Bible Grift Baptism

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



An emergent exemplum inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Pardoner's Tale* written between 1387 and 1400. The Pardoner says the theme of his sermon is "Radix malorum est cupiditas," "Greed is the root of all evil."

BEYOND BIGLY PARDON: THE DONALD'S TALE






You know they will believe whatever I say
As I rake in more money day after day
I sell junk for greenbacks in perpetuity
Never fail to grab every single gratuity
Watch me gab and grab from rally to rally
Skipping policy talk forward I must sally

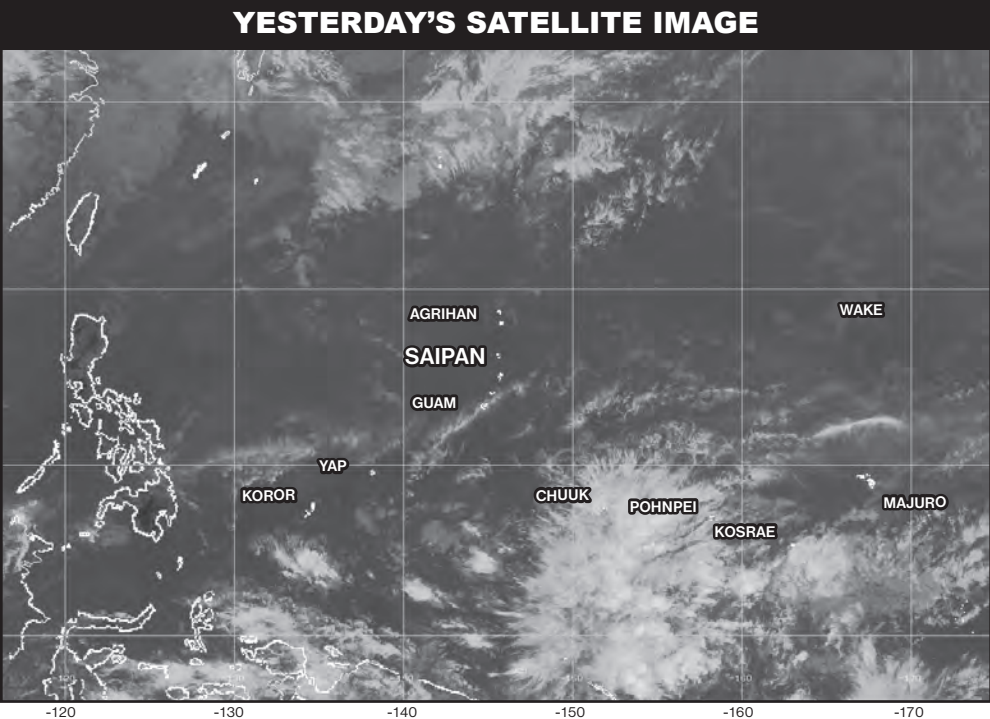
Picking up more votes in blue states again
Is my main strategy I do not lie in vain
I want more money Russian rubles and gold
I'll make any deal that results in something sold
In fact I have got a few towers up for sale
Buy a few bring a good conclusion to my tale
Delay the trials until my first term is beginning
That is all I have to say I know I am winning.

IN THE EMPIRE STATE OF PARODY and SATIRE

I have to laugh just to keep myself from crying
D.J.T.'s latest Bible grift led to parody and satire
Selling sneakers and Bibles his campaign dying
Using the funds to pay plenty lawyers in his hire
D.J.T. Delay Justice Trump in a bigly slump
Delay after delay and appeal after appeal
Using Evangelicals as a bigly money pump
Separation of church and state for him not real
His wife at home with a four-month-old child
Trump paying a porn star in NY going wild
After hush money charges his indictments enlarged
Guilty of grift tax fraud and lying Guilty as charged
Trump will be tried in NYC near his Trump Tower
The nation eagerly awaits the great day and the hour.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 5:43 AM THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers and moderate to fresh trade winds, with strong gusts, prevail across the Marianas. Altimetry data remains unavailable, however, model data indicates seas should be between 6 and 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Fair/Wind	88° / 79°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	90° / 81°	
Chuuk	Rain	88° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Light Rain Shower	88° / 79°	
Kosrae	Rain	87° / 81°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 83°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:37 AM	10:08 PM	-
Saturday	9:32 AM	11:09 PM	-
Sunday	10:29 AM	-	-
Monday	-	12:06 AM	11:26 AM
Tuesday	-	12:58 AM	12:22 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 53°	
Beijing	Fair	67° / 44°	
Hong Kong	Fair	78° / 71°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°	
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 62°	
Manila	Fair	94° / 82°	
Melbourne	Light Rain	58° / 46°	
Miami	Cloudy	86° / 78°	
New York	Cloudy	72° / 63°	
Osaka	Cloudy	69° / 53°	
Paris	Showers	75° / 63°	
Busan	Cloudy	64° / 50°	
Rome	Showers	52° / 38°	
Salem	Rain	82° / 64°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	71° / 51°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	67° / 51°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 48°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	78° / 62°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:15 AM	Low Tide	1.10	
9:12 AM	High Tide	1.94	
4:37 PM	Low Tide	-0.29	
11:47 PM	High Tide	1.85	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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NMTech training new workers for baking, cosmetology fields

By CHRYSTAL MARINO

chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The furnace is hot at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute as it continues to train the next professionals in the CNMI.

With 30 individuals participating in baking/pastry and cosmetology courses alone, they are well on their way to fill some of the high-demand jobs in the Commonwealth, and as of this week, the second cohort in these courses are getting ready to complete their classes.

NMTech outreach coordinator Ben Babauta Jr. is happy to report that the first group of cohorts in baking/pastry and cosmetology are in the middle of internships in hotels and salons on Saipan and the second group is about to complete their class this May.

“Last August, we launched the first baking/pastry cohort and the first cosmetology cohort. It’s the first time NMTech is offering these programs. It started in August and it finished in mid-December. We had six students enrolled in that class.”

Spearheaded by Le Cordon Bleu-certified chef Marisa Camacho, baking/pastry students learned the fundamentals of baking and food décor. Starting from safety and sanitation, to food science and measurements, and then more hands-on execution like baking in two parts, to making fresh bread, students were able to utilize different techniques to create different types of bread as well as make cookies, muffins, and cakes with a bit of garnishing and decorating thrown in the mix.

Babauta said the first cohort



NMTECH

Students continue to learn at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base.

is currently on its 240-hour internship at Hyatt Regency Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The second baking/pastry cohort that started in January has nine students and are expected to finish the program by the end of May.

“We have an additional five students right now for the mid-spring semester. So, a total of about 20 are undergoing training in less than a year.”

In cosmetology, Babauta also has seen piqued interest in participants and their first cohort of six students that started in August 2023 finished the program last week.

The cosmetology students gained knowledge that covered safety and sanitation, hair proportion, differences between types of hair, color theory, and how to cut hair.

Taught by instructors Kurt Ellis, Moriah Sablan, and Kristin Hofschneider, the classes also delved into

the basics of nail care from manicures and pedicures to a little bit about hand massage and even dermatology. Specifically, they learned about the safety and sanitation of skin and understanding the different diseases and how to carefully clean skin. Babauta said students will get additional training by having their internship at Salt & Barber.

“Everything we’re doing for both the cosmetology and baking/pastry program is for a reason. It is because we saw the immense need shown on the Department of Labor’s job vacancy announcements,” said Babauta.

He hopes that through these courses and students developing these trades, there will be enough U.S. or long-term resident workers to fill the void when contract workers eventually leave the CNMI with the expiration of the CW program in 2029.

Isla Community Health donates \$1K to 2024 MMAC

Isla Community Health joins the fight against cancer as a major sponsor with their generous donation of \$1,000, affirming its commitment to supporting cancer awareness and research initiatives for the local community.

The 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 3, 2023, from 3pm to 1pm at the CPA Airport Field.

There will be four tiers of sponsorship packages: The first is at \$10,000, and that sponsorship is usually represented on the MMAC shirt. The second one is \$8,000-plus, the third \$3,000-plus, and fourth is \$1,000-plus. They will also recognize \$500 and up sponsorships. This includes in-kind and



MMAC

Front and center, left to right, Jenpy Sambile, Keith Longuski, and Roca Q. Quitugua pose with other staff of Isla Community Health with the \$1,000 donation to the 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer.

monetary donations.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact: mmac.sponsorship@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, there are six tiers of entry for participating teams: Pulan for families and Napu for schools, will cost \$300 for both; Atdao

for non-profits, \$399; Tano for non-profit organizations partnering with a school, educational institution or government agency, \$500; Puti'on for corporations, \$550; and Tasi for corporations partnering with a family, non-profit organization or school, \$750. (PR)



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

P.O. Box 500830, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-3751/52/53 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Facebook: facebook.com/DPLCNMI



NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 030 D 01, containing an area of approximately 14,255 square meters and Lot 101 D 01, containing an area of approximately 2,610 square meters, in Navy Hill Saipan for a total of 16,865 square meters. A map showing the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
 - The prospective Lessee is Grace Christian Academy of Saipan. The list of officers for Grace Christian Academy Non-Profit Corporation: Rev. Michael Rodgers as Board of Chairman, Ms. Catherine Harris as Secretary, Mrs. Beatrice Fatialofa as Board Member, Benjamin Vivero as Board Member, and Mrs. Beth Ann Nunez as Principle.
 - The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the Board Chairman of Grace Christian Academy, Reverend Michael D. Rodgers.
 - The Lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of the operation of a school from kindergarten to 12 grade; and other school and church related activities.
- The term of the proposed lease agreement is 40 years with an extension of up to 15 years with approval of the Legislature in accordance with P.L. 20-84 (1 CMC § 2806(c)(1)).
- The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.
- A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp
- The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Navy Hill, Saipan.
 - The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before April 25, 2024, at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TĀNU' PUPBLIKU

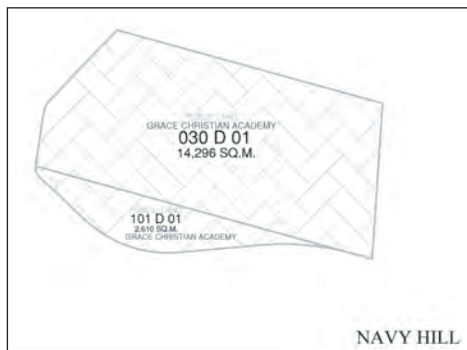
Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku mannānā'i huyung nutisia guini put i intension-riha para u ma'atklā metton na tanu' pupbluku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariānas. Maseha hāyi na pattidā intrisao gi halum hinirāt pupbluku siha muna'hālum upiñon, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atklon nu i tanu' pupbluku. Komu mapribeni mās mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbluku 15-2, i tinattitiy pettanesi na infotmasion manisisisa para u mapupblika.

- I maproponi na atklon tanu' pupbluku madiskribi komu Lot 030 D 01, kunsissisti kāsī 14,255 square meters yan Lot 101 D 01, ni kunsissisti kāsī 2,610 square meters ni gaigi gi hālum Navy Hill iya Saipan para tutāt nu 16,865 square meters. I māpa ni ina'a'annuk i lūgāt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku para inspeksion.
 - I prospective Lessee i Grace Christian Academy iya Sa'ipan. I listan ufisiāt siha para Grace Christian Academy Non-Profit Corporation: si Rev. Michael Rodgers komu Kabesiyn Kuetpu, si Siñorita Catherine Harris komu Sekritāria, si Siñora Beatrice Fatialofa komu Membrun Kuetpu, si Benjamin Vivero komu Membrun Kuetpu, yan si Siñora Beth Ann Nunez komu Prinsipāt.
 - I maproponi na atklon matattiy i regulasion DPL yan ginen manegosiu ni Kabesiyn Kuetpu nu Grace Christian Academy, as Reverend Michael D. Rodgers.
 - I lessee debi na u usa i lūgāt put atyu ha' na rason i operasion nu i iskuela ginen i kattiya asta 12 grādu; yan ottru manasosiāt na aktibidāt iskuela yan guma' Yu'us siha.
- I teman i maproponi na kuntrātan atklon sa 40 āñus na tiempo yan i ekstension asta 15 āñus na tiempo yan i inapruuban i Lehlisatura sigun yan i P.L. 20-84 (1 CMC § 2806(c)(1)).
- I maproponi na atklon gi kada' sākkan gi durāntin teman kuntrātan i' atklon mapega gi put sientus i bālān "appraised fair market" i propiedāt yan i aplikāo na put sientus nu i "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum i regulasion DPL.
- I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntrātan atklon siha machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Building, giya Tinian. I kopia debi lokku' na u managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp
- I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku taya marisibi ni hāfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atklā i suhetu na tanu' pupbluku gi Navy Hill, giya Saipan.
 - I Sekritāriun Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku debi na u aksepta tini' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintires na pattida siha gi pat āntis di Abril 25, 2024, gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbluku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tinian. I inekkungk pupbluku siempri magopti yanggin marikuesta gi durānti i tiempun upiñon.

ARONGORONGOL ATKILÓONOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tāñl 106 (b) reel Alléghul Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re isiisiwow arongorong igħa re māngemāngil rebwe atklilay faluweer toulap llof Seipēl, Commonwealth Tēel Falūw kka Efāng llof Mariānas. Schōo kka re tipālī sāngi toulap emmwel rebwe isiisilong ischil kkapas, data, views, ngare angingil ppwomm ikka aa siwel ngālī ppwommwol atklilóonol faluweer toulap. Re bwal ayoora sāngi Alléghul Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e ffil ebwe akkatéewow.

- Ppwommwol atklilóonol faluweer toulap e bwāā bwe Lot 030 D 01, e lo bwe 14,255 reel square meters me Lot 101 D 01, iye e bwāā bwe 2,610 reel square meters, me Navy Hill Seipēl me alongal falūw yeel nge e toowow bwe 16,865 reel square meters. Eyoor móopa me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap reel falūw yeel ngare u mwusche amwuri.
 - Ppwommwol schōol atklilóon nge Grace Christian Academy me Seipēl. Iyeel list-al officers ngālī Grace Christian Non-Profit Corporation: Rev. Micheal Rodgers bwe Board of Chairman, Ms. Catherine Harris bwe Sekkretōriya, Mrs Beatrice Fatialofa bwe Membrool Board, Benjamin Vivero bwe Membrool Board, Mrs. Beth Ann Nunez bwe Principāl.
 - Ppwommwol atklilóon nge e angūūngū fēngāl me mwōghutughutūl DPL me e abwugubwug sāngi Board Chairman-i Grace Christian Academy, Reverend Micheal D. Rodgers.
 - Schōol atklilóon ebwe yāyā falūw ngālī mwōghutughutūl imwal rāghēfisch e bwe me kindergarten ngālī seigh me roowow gurōodo; fēngāl akkāāw mwōghutughutūl imwal rāghēfisch me imwal Liyoos.
- Ppwommwol abwugubwugūl atklilóon nge fāāgh rāāgh fēngāl me extention iye e mwetā seigh me limoow rāāgh fēngāl me ātirow sāngi Sou Allégh (Legislature) bwe e angūūngū fēngāl me P.L. 20-84 (1 CMC § 2806(c)(1)).
- Ppwommwol atklilóon għal rāāgh atol abwugubwugūl atklilóon yeel nge e lo reel percentage-i appraised fair market value reel falūw fēngāl me application percentage reel Gross Receipts llof mwōghutughutūl DPL.
- Emmwel ubwe bweibwogh pappidil ppwommwol atklilóon me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipēl; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilōmwol Songsong, Luuta; ngare 1st floor me PM Building, Tchiliyōl. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille ubwe amwuri online me www.dpl.gov.mp
- Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap resāl bweibwogh pappidil siwelil ppwommwol atklilóonol falūw iye e lo Navy Hill, Seipēl.
 - Sekkretōriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re bweibwogh ischil kkapas, views, angingi ngare siwelil ppwomm sāngi schōo kka re mwusche wōol ngare mmwalil Abril 25, 2024, me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e lo Seipēl, Luuta ngare Tchiliyōl.



Marianas wins award for best diving area overseas

The Marianas, including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, was named #2 Best Overseas Diving Area Overseas at the Marine Diving Awards presented at this month’s Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, Japan.

Marine Diving Fair is Asia’s largest SCUBA diving exhibition, and the Marine Diving Awards are determined by the online vote of divers across Japan. Diving opportunities in The Marianas were touted by the Marianas Visitors Authority to nearly 29,000 attendees at the fair.




Norkio Akari of Sakura Marine accepts an award naming the Marianas—including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—as #2 Best Diving Area-Overseas in the Marine Diving Awards on April 5, 2024. The awards—selected by popular vote—were presented during Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, Japan, held April 5-7, where the Marianas Visitors Authority reached out to the nearly 29,000 attendees to promote diving and other attractions of the Marianas.



The Marianas—including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota—was voted #2 Best Diving Area-Overseas in the Marine Diving Awards on April 5, 2024. The awards were presented at Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, Japan, held on April 5-7, where the Marianas Visitors Authority reached out to tens of thousands of attendees to promote diving and other attractions of the Marianas.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com



NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
Automated Teller Machine
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-006-24
CPA Concession No.: SAT-2024-01

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the “CPA”) is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the “IFB”), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations to provide Automated Teller Machine at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning March 15, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed on its austerity days and holidays. The IFB includes a layout and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@ptciom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than April 2, 2024.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **“INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-006-24.”** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **3:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, April 18, 2024**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.


Bids will be opened on April 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to provide Automated Teller Machine services at a certain designated location within the Saipan International Airport for a period of five (5) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA’s best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.


FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

OWNERS/AGENT ENGINEER SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFQ-001-24

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

In collaboration with the Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CPA is continuing its modernization initiatives of the CNMI’s air and seaports through the identification, development, implementation, and completion of major capital improvement plan (CIP) projects that will further enhance the air and seaports’ resiliency, sustainability and core capabilities.

Therefore, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Owners/Agent Engineer (OAE) Services with the intent to provide CPA professional services and technical support in the areas of design and engineering services, program management support, financial consulting and analysis, and other related services specific to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, the Benjamin Manglona Taisacan International Airport, the Port of Saipan, the Rota West Harbor, and the Tinian Harbor.

The project is being funded by a grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) and is in accordance with CPA’s Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA’s Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at email address wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Nora Vincent at receptionist @cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA’s Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024**.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their qualification statements no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024**. All proposals shall be addressed to the attention of CPA’s Executive Director, Mr. Leo B. Tudela. Additionally, proposals transmitted via facsimile or email will not be accepted.

The professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Additional supporting documents that complement the qualification statements are encouraged.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all qualification statements for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: March 14, 2024



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400078

SUBMISSION DATE: May 08, 2024 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

“Gagu/Banalu Street Road Improvement Project.”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


The project package will be available on or after **April 05, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 23, 2024, 9:00 a.m. ChST** at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on April 30, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services



DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW24-ITB No.: 42400081

SUBMISSION DATE: May 08, 2024 **TIME: 9:00 A.M.**

“Sugar Dock Maintenance Dredging.”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **April 12, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 23, 2024, 9:00 a.m. ChST** at the **Division of Fish and Wildlife Conference Room, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on April 30, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

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/S/ RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

This year MVA hosted two information booths at the event, held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (April 5-7), at Ikebukuro Sunshine City.

“As diving is one of our biggest attractions in the Marianas, the Marine Diving Fair has been a part of the MVA’s annual promotions calendar for many years, and we are humbled that Japanese divers continue to consider our islands one of the best places to dive overseas,” said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. “It shows that as a diving destination, The Marianas holds its own alongside countries like Palau, the Philippines, Tahiti, Fiji, and others. This is an encouragement for the government, business sector, and community to keep up our efforts to preserve and protect our diving sites and ensure our visiting divers have a safe and memorable experience.”

The fair is joined by 76 exhibitors, including major diving equipment and camera manufacturers, and educational institutions such as PADI and SNSI. The event attracted a wide range of users, including non-divers interested in the ocean, as well as a growing number of foreign English-speaking divers. Stage presentations were also made by renowned Japanese underwater photographers, and discussions were held on marine environments and safe diving practices.

Joining MVA staff in promoting the Marianas were representatives of several dive shops: Miyuki Ishihara of Dive House ANCLAH, Tomoe Yoshida of Bigeye, and Noriko Akari and Yumiko Tanaka of Sakura Marine. In addition to sharing information about diving and other visitor opportunities in The Marianas, the MVA promoted flight services to Saipan from Tokyo by United Airlines and conducted a survey among participants.

As self-reported upon arrival to the Marianas last fiscal year, nearly 1,000 individuals and families to The Marianas indicated their intention to dive. The 33rd Marine Diving Fair is scheduled for April 4-6, 2025. **(PR)**



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES (PHS)
MATERNAL, INFANT, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAMS (MICAH)
TITLE V MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 13, 2024 **TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)**

RFP24-CHCC/PHS/MICAH-010
“NEED ASSESSMENT FOR MICAH PROGRAM”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

'Why we serve as public school vice principals'

From working alongside the school principal to helping coach teachers, supporting students learn, and responding to every parent's needs, school vice principals do a lot of work that makes up the main chunk of their time as "support system of the school."

For these reasons and more "why," these professional educators serve the Public School System and all its stakeholders. They all shared their experiences during the April 8 professional learning opportunity that culminated in the week-long Public School System Vice Principals Week. The event was held at the Kensington Hotel Saipan last Monday.

These vice principals acknowledge that impacting one child at a time in various ways makes a huge difference.

There are 23 vice principals from all 20 elementary, middle, and high school campuses on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

On Monday, Board of Education chair Herman Atalig, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, associate commissioner for Administration Eric Magofna, Special Education State director Donna M. Flores, Federal Programs officer Jacqueline P. Che, Finance and Budget director Arlene Lizama, Human Resources officer Lucretia Deleon Guerrero, Information Technology and Distance Education director Lorraine Catienza, and Senior directors Dr. Rizalina Liwag, and Dr. Yvonne R. Pangelinan, among others, celebrated with the district's vice principals.

The school district's vice principals are: Carla A. Sablan, Chacha Oceanview Middle School; Reo A. Arriola, Dandan Middle School; Catherine A. Acera-Cabrera, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School; Melisa D. Mendes, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School; Jaclyn Rose A. Quitugua, Garapan Elementary School; Karen Anna Alla Manuel and Benjamin B. Seman, Hopwood Middle School; Lareyna N. Camacho, Kagman Elementary School; Francisca C. Bondoc and Shirley-Jean L. Norita, Kagman High School; Jonas M. Barcinas, Koblerville Elementary School; Preston O. Basa, Andrew L. Orsini II, and Melanie Sablan Rdiall, Marianas High School; Alisa Ann T. Pangelinan, Oleai Elementary School; Arisa Sakai, Saipan Southern High School; Annamarie S. Guerrero, San Vicente Elementary School; Juana Atalig, Sinapalo Elementary School; Felisa b. Tellu, Tanapag Middle School; April Manglona, Tinian Elementary School; Edward M. Hofschneider, Tinian Middle/



Board of Education chair Herman Atalig gestures as he praises all of PSS school vice principals for their hard work and commitment.



MHS vice principal Romolo Orsini, ITDE director Lorraine Catienza, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, Chacha Oceanview Middle School vice principal Carla Sablan, and MHS vice principals Melanie S. Rdiall and Preston Basa participate in an activity.



From left, Hopwood Middle School vice principals Dr. Ben Seman and Karen A. Manuel, Board of Education chair Herman Atalig, Tanapag Middle School vice principal Feliza Tellu, and Kagman Elementary School vice principal Loling Camacho.

High School, and Jocelyn M. Manibusan, William S. Reyes Elementary School.

"Why do I serve? It helps me make a difference in the community," said MHS vice principal Romolo Andrew Orsini.

Preston Basa, another MHS vice principal, said: "It's for the students. I know that what we provide our students will impact their overall education."

Vice principal Melanie Sablan Rdiall is proud to serve MHS for the last five years. "I have 1,600-plus reasons

for why I served. I don't see myself going anywhere in the next 100 years."

Chacha Oceanview Middle School vice principal Carla Sablan said, "I have been with PSS for 22 years and I still find it rewarding... seeing students every day, supporting our teachers and families. And over the years, our students come back to us to thank us. That's my 'why'. This is why I love my job like everybody here."

Tinian Elementary School vice principal April Manglona

has been on the job for only eight months. "It is sometimes overwhelming, but what makes our job easier is the good support system that I have. And I thank (principal) Lou Connie Manglona for being a great support system."

Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School vice principal Juana Atalig is proud to serve because of the school system. "Because I am a product of the Head Start Program, my son is in the special education program, and my family has been given support by the Public School System. Without the amazing system in my life, I would not be an amazing support in our school. That's why I am amazing."

Garapan Elementary School vice principal Jaclyn Rose Quitugua said: "The reason why I get up in the morning is to be with my students and my colleagues—our school staff."

She paid tribute to her parents, current senior director for Curriculum and Instruction Jackie A. Quitugua and former associate commissioner Justo Quitugua. "I grew up in the (education) system. I was at my parents' office almost every day when I was young, and it was fitting to follow their steps."

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School vice principal Catherine Acera-Cabrera was "challenged" to join the team. "It helped me move mountains... for the future of our children, for their success, and for them to become life-long learners."

One of the longest serving vice principals, Arisa Sakai of SSHS, finds it rewarding: "I have been a classroom teacher for 17 years, and I'm always there to support everyone. I'm the cheerleader, the second mom to our high school students."

Kagman High School vice principal Francisca Castro finds it exciting to work every day. "Every day there's something different. That's why I enjoy what I'm doing."

Oleai Elementary School vice principal Alisa Ann T. Pangelinan said: "My why is why not? Every day and everything that we do for our families... is for our children. What we do at home as parents, we help build our school as educators."

For the last 16 years as an educator, vice principal Annamarie S. Guerrero is proud of being part of the San Vicente Elementary School community. "I have been the 'Robin to Batman.' I'm their Robin in my school. I'm their support but it's not about me; it's about us all and what we do for our schools."

For Kagman Elementary School vice principal Lareyna



In appreciation to their work, Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho and the school district presented all school vice principals with tokens of appreciation. In this photo, the education chief is flanked by vice principals Dr. Ben Seman, Karen A. Manuel, Catherine Cabrera, Carla Sablan, Feliza Tellu, and Ed Hofschneider.



Vice principals Ana Guerrero, Alisa Pangelinan, Francisca Bondoc, and Arisa Sakai try to solve a word game bingo activity. Several enrichment activities were presented during last Monday's professional development for all school vice principals.



From left, Human Resources officer Lucretia Deleon Guerrero, Tinian Jr. Sr. High School principal Ed Hofschneider, Koblerville Elementary School vice principal Jonas Barcinas, and Dandan Middle School vice principal Reo Arriola.

"Loling" Camacho, the opportunity came knocking. "Like my colleagues said, it's hard work: we do what we do to serve our community."

Tanapag Middle School vice principal Feliza Brel Tellu said it's the "passion" that gets her going.

Hopwood Middle School vice principal Karen Ann A. Manuel said nothing surpasses being in the service of students. "I have had several jobs but nothing tops being in the school. Every day, you come across different life stories, get to know students... it's just really amazing that I'm in the school and there is kind of an impact, whether it's 1,500 or 1,500 lives."

Another Hopwood vice principal, Dr. Ben Seman, said: "We're all about supporting each other. What I do is about my passion to serve."

The newest vice principal, Ed Hofschneider of Tinian Jr. Sr. High School added: "We

look after our students. With everything that we do, we give them support."

Dandan Middle School vice principal Reo Arriola has served the school for 14 years. "The reason why I continue to give my all is the opportunity that it provides me: to offer support to my school."

Koblerville Elementary School vice principal Jonas M. Barcinas has worn many hats, but what endeavors him to continue serving for the last 34 years is to serve. "I am the first of my siblings to attend and finish college, and I said to myself after graduating college, I will be the one to do it to help my family, and the community. That's why I did it: It's about believing that we can do it."

He added: "That is why I serve our school district, because I believe in what our students can do, what our teachers can offer, and what we all, as advocates and leaders can do." (PR)

Business

Ben-Ki Store is a family business at heart

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

It's one of those hidden gems on island and whether you're looking for something salty, sweet, cold, or hot, or even a friendly hello, Ben-Ki Store in Dandan is definitely a must stop if you're in the area.

Snuggly situated in upper Dandan right next to Lucky De Mart Laundry, this mom-and-pop store is one of few remaining locally owned and family run stores on Saipan.

Ben-Ki Store itself not only carries regular grocery items, but it also markets a taste of their family recipes with hot lunches, empanadas, breads, local chips, *asiga* and *bishu*.

Another big seller for the store is their side fish market where they sell reef fish, octopus, and other bounties of the sea caught by their very own fishermen.

With the hot weather, Ben-Ki Store also has become a hub for young and old as they are the only ones selling soft-serve ice cream in the area.

But one of the main things that make Ben-Ki Store a gem is the fact that it's 100% locally owned and almost 100% family run and when you walk into the store you are sure to be warmly



Ben-Ki Store is located next to Lucky De Mart Laundry in Dandan.



You can also find regular grocery items at Ben-Ki Store in Dandan.

greeted by one of the members of the Teregeyo family.

Whether owners Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, her son Raymond, or her 4-year-old granddaughter, Rayarah, at the

counter, you can feel the sense of family at Ben-Ki Store.

Concepcion-Teregeyo shared that the store got its name from her parents, Ben and Ki Concepcion, who had a



Raymond "MeMong" C. Teregeyo Jr. and daughter Rayarah Rian pose for a photo at Ben-Ki Store in Dandan.

store themselves in the 1990s. She said her parents always had a business and aside from the store, they owned a marine sport company in Garapan.

As for Concepcion-Teregeyo, she had dabbled in business herself for a short time. "I operated a video store here and a pearl shake shop in the 1990s in this building. Then we left to the U.S. mainland for me to attend college. After graduating, I came back and worked in the government, and at one point became the secretary for Department of Public Lands."

She shared that as time passed, she hadn't really entertained the thought of reopening the store, but when her kids moved back to Saipan, her son expressed an interest in selling fish.

"We didn't really plan to open the store. It wasn't a longtime dream. Everything just fell into place as my kids were moving back from the mainland."

Concepcion-Teregeyo said her mother owned the building where Ben-Ki is now, but after Typhoon Soudelor it had been vacant. When her son returned home with a boat and wanted to sell fish, it seemed to all fall into place and in 2022 Ben-Ki Store finally opened.

Then things began to branch out from there as her daughter began making and selling *asiga* mixes and *bishu* candies and her son also started a small farm where they harvest produce to sell. Concepcion-Teregeyo shared that after a while they began incorporating products from a number of other local farmers and fishermen who asked to sell their products at the store. Eventually their motto became "Locals Helping Locals."

"Local farmers also bring their stuff here, but since the



Some young customers with Rayarah Teregeyo show their soft-serve ice cream at the Ben-Ki Store in Dandan.



Soups and other hot items at Ben-Ki Store in Dandan.



Some delectable treats at Ben-Ki Store in Dandan.

economy dropped, we don't really sell as much local food as much as we used to. We do but we can tell there's a slight drop."

Ben-Ki Store is also no stranger to economic struggles experienced by small business owners, from tough farming to a very competitive market in fishing. "It's kind of hard to keep buying more fish when it's not going out. We cook it if it doesn't sell. We cook the fish or smoke or dry the fish to keep the rotation," said Concepcion-Teregeyo.

In order to stay afloat, the family also takes turns manning the store to fully cover hours. "Everybody helps each other here. The kids help watch the store, we do a lot of stuff, like everyone here pitches in. It's hard, very hard, but everyone puts their time in to help keep us afloat. We wish it was busier."

She shared that as a business owner, she wants to see Ben-Ki Store grow and hopefully be able to employ more people.

"We do have a few staff, but usually it's to help us with the cooking. We do have cashiers. We do have cook assistants and a cook in the back, but for the most part, we all help each other."

By opening Ben-Ki Store, Concepcion-Teregeyo shared her kids have not only become entrepreneurs but her granddaughter is also getting comfortable working around the store and has developed her in-

terpersonal and money skills. "It really touches me."

She said because of their popular lunch plates, breakfast and lunch hours are the busiest for the store.

"Breakfast and lunch keep us really busy. We close early because it's not busy at night but we hope to be. We hope to have more customers at night."

And the community seems to be in agreement.

"I like their local food," said Koblerville resident Roland Sablan.

Meanwhile, Shirleyann Salomon said she first knew of Ben-Ki Store when she lived in Dandan and although she moved to Koblerville, she would still stop by. What keeps her from coming back are the various seafood available and, of course, the soft-serve ice cream.

As Ben-Ki Store marks its second year, Concepcion-Teregeyo hopes to reach even more people and share what they have to offer.

"I encourage other locals to send a private message to us if they are interested in selling their products. We can provide counter, shelf, or chiller space but they must have the proper documents especially for food handling."

Ben-Ki Store opens bright and early at 6:30am and closes at 7:30pm everyday. For more information, call (670) 288-6664 or message them through their Facebook page.

Chamber extends island hospitality to Air Force personnel during Agile Reaper 2024 Exercise

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce extends its warmest hospitality to the visiting men and women in uniform participating in the Agile Reaper 2024 exercise, organized by the 3rd Expeditionary Wing under the U.S. Pacific Air Forces command. On Tuesday, April 9, at 5:30pm, approximately 130 personnel were greeted with a special gesture of appreciation at the Airport Field, located across the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter office.

"This was a great opportunity for our Chamber team to show some island hospitality to our visiting men and women in uniform," said Armed Forces Committee chair Brad Ruszala. "These fine men and women will not forget our hospitality, and we won't forget their service to our nation."

The meal preparations, spearheaded by AFC member Glenna Sakisat-Palacios, saw the collaboration of several local businesses and organizations to provide a hot meal experience for the participating personnel. AFC member Catherine Attao-Toves coordinated the Tan Siu Lin Foundation's sponsorship of the meals through Shirley's Coffee Shop, while AFC member John Hirsh facilitated the provision of serving tables through the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter.

"One nice hot meal might



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Catherine Attao-Toves (Tan Holdings vice president of Community Relations), Jerry Tan (Tan Holdings president and CEO), Merlie Tolentino (Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive director), John Hirsh (American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director), Glenna Sakisat-Palacios (ACE JIT, HQ PACAF), Lt. Col. Logan Sutton, and Shirlene Ostrov (ACE JIT, HQ PACAF).

not seem like a big deal, but it sure is something special when you're training in a far-off place and you're limited to a steady diet of MREs for two and a half weeks," said Ruszala.

The Chamber extends its sincere appreciation to the generous sponsors of the meals, including Triple J Saipan, Tan Holdings, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Marianas Integration, TurnKey Solutions, and the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter. Their support and contribution towards this initiative are invaluable, reflecting their commitment to supporting the AFC's mission which is to connect military-affiliated partners, veterans, and active-duty service-men and women with the business community through various community

and business activities.

Starting from April 3, members of the U.S. Air Force have been conducting their annual Agile Reaper exercise on Saipan and Tinian. According to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, approximately 150 U.S. Air Force personnel are stationed on Saipan, utilizing half of the Saipan airport field for their campgrounds. CPA assistant operations supervisor Zachary Reyes assures the community that the exercises, expected to occur until April 15, are routine and should not raise concerns among residents.

For more information and updates on the Agile Reaper 2024 exercise, stay tuned to announcements from the CPA. (PR)

Life & Style

Warner Bros. teases ‘Joker’ sequel, ‘Beetlejuice 2’ and more at CinemaCon

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Warner Bros. isn’t resting on its “Barbie” laurels: The 100-year studio has its sights on a record-breaking 2024 as well, with a release slate that includes a new Mad Max film, “Furiosa,” Kevin Costner’s two-part Western epic, “Horizon: An American Saga,” the “Beetlejuice” sequel, and “Jok-

When are the 2025 Oscars? The Academy Awards announce date, sticking to early start

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 97th Academy Awards will be held March 2, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences announced Wednesday. That moves the annual ceremony up about a week. This year’s Oscars were held on March 10. The telecast, which culminated in the best picture win for Christopher Nolan’s “Oppenheimer,” was watched by an estimated 19.5 million people, up about 4% from the year prior. The film academy is also sticking with an earlier start for the awards. Like this year’s show, the Oscars will kick off at 7 p.m. Eastern, an hour earlier than they have typically done. ABC will again air the Academy Awards. The Golden Globes, after signing a new five-year deal with CBS, recently set Jan. 5 as the date for next year’s ceremony.

er: Folie à Deux,” which brings Lady Gaga to Gotham City. The studio was first up Tuesday night to dazzle theater owners who are gathered this week in Las Vegas for the annual CinemaCon convention and trade show. They came armed with stars, including the likes of Kevin Costner, Michael Keaton, Robert Pattinson, Anya Taylor-Joy and Chris Hemsworth, as well as footage and trailers to show. “Joker” director Todd Phillips showed the audience a trailer for “Joker: Folie à Deux,” out Oct. 4, which brings Joaquin Phoenix back as the violent and mentally ill Arthur Fleck and introduces Gaga’s Harley Quinn. Phillips thanked the exhibitors in the room for helping the first movie become such a big success. Addressing rumors that the sequel is a musical, Phillips said that he hasn’t referred to it as such. “It’s a movie where music is



Michael Keaton, left, star of the upcoming film “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice,” discusses the film alongside director Tim Burton during the Warner Bros. Pictures presentation at CinemaCon 2024, Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in Las Vegas.

an essential element,” Phillips said. “To me that doesn’t veer very far from the first film.” Before its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival next month and theatrical release on May 24, “Furiosa” director George Miller stars Taylor-Joy and Hemsworth, spoke a bit about the prequel and showed

some explosive new footage. “We just finished last week,” said the 79-year-old filmmaker, whose first Mad Max film came out 45 years ago. This new film is focused on a young Furiosa, who was played by Charlize Theron in “Mad Max: Fury Road,” the 2015 blockbuster that made

over \$300 million at the box office and won four Oscars. “This is the story of one woman’s relentless commitment to impossible hope,” Taylor-Joy said. “We see her go through everything.” Hemsworth plays a warlord named “Dementus.” The audience was especially excited to hear from Kevin Costner, who will be back in theaters this summer with a two-part Western, “Horizon: An American Saga,” which he directed, co-wrote and stars in. Set during the Civil War, Costner wanted to look at the idea of the promise of America. “It was the promise that if you could come west, if you could survive it, you could make a home at the expense of a lot of things,” Costner said. “To me, that’s drama.” The film is getting an unconventional release, with “Part 1” hitting theaters on June 28 followed by “Part 2” on Aug. 16. The ensemble includes Sienna Miller, Sam

Worthington, Danny Huston and “Stranger Things” breakout Jamie Campbell Bower. “A lot of people like plot movies,” Costner said. “I have a tendency to like journey movies.” “Horizon: An American Saga” will premiere at Cannes next month as well. Tim Burton was also on hand to hype “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice,” the sequel to his 1988 hit, which brings back Keaton, Winona Ryder and Catherine O’Hara to reprise their roles, and introduces new characters played by Jenna Ortega, Monica Bellucci, Willem Dafoe and Justin Theroux. It opens in theaters on Sept. 5. Burton said he always related to Lydia Deetz and wanted to know what happened to the Deetz women over the years and was happy that Ryder, O’Hara and Keaton were on board too. “It was like a weird family reunion,” Burton said.

Jessica Alba steps down as chief creative officer at Honest, personal care company she founded

Jessica Alba, who shot to fame in the James Cameron television series “Dark Angel,” as well as films such as “Sin City” and the “Fantastic Four,” will step down as chief creative officer at Honest Company, a personal care company that she founded. Alba will keep a seat on the company board, but Honest said that she will now focus on “new endeavors.” The actress founded Honest in 2012 after she suffered allergic reactions to baby laun-

dry detergents. The company went public in May 2021, with shares soaring 44% in their stock market debut. Sales at Honest Co. have risen steadily, but the company has struggled to turn a profit. Late Thursday, the company put up its first profitable quarter since mid 2021. “Honest has been a true labor of love for me—one that showed me what’s possible when you infuse purpose into business,” Alba said in a prepared statement.



Alba had early starring roles in Nickelodeon’s series “The Secret World of Alex Mack,” as well as the revival of the 1960s television series “Flipper.” Shares of Honest Co., based in Los Angeles, fell slightly before the opening bell Wednesday. (AP)

New mother refuses to let her grandma hold the baby

DEAR ABBY: My oldest daughter, “Kate,” is 22. Her baby is now 6 months old. She is the first grandchild and great-grandchild. Kate refuses to allow my mom to hold her baby. My mom has held the baby a couple of times, but my daughter immediately swooped in and took the baby from her. During the last family gathering, Kate wouldn’t let me hold the baby either, because she said I might let my mom hold the baby. It hurts my heart to watch Mom treated this way. I know my mom. We haven’t always been close, and sometimes Mom says the wrong things, but she is a good person and would never hurt the baby. Because I let Kate know my feelings, she is now refusing to come to any family gathering where Mom might be present, and she won’t talk to me, either. I’m struggling and emotional over this. Mom has done some very kind things for my daughter. She owns a timeshare and let Kate use it for graduation and her honeymoon. I feel Kate is using the baby as a weapon. Is there anything I can do? If not, how do I try to move on?

THWARTED IN UTAH

DEAR THWARTED: Kate may—or may not—be using her child as a weapon to punish you and your mother for some perceived slight. She may also legitimately be worried

that her grandmother might accidentally drop the little one. You stated that you and your mother weren’t close for a period of time. If you and your mother weren’t close, it would follow that your daughter wouldn’t be all that close to her grandmother. Of course, a solution to this problem won’t be possible until you understand what has caused it, and that won’t happen until your daughter is willing to give you some straight answers. Start there. If she refuses, you will have to live your life and hope that as your grandchild grows up, the dynamic will change.

DEAR ABBY: When a daughter is getting married, how do divorced parents sit, walk down the aisle and conduct themselves?

ALMOST THERE IN NEW YORK

DEAR ALMOST THERE: First and foremost, the divorced parents should act like adults and bury their hostilities (if there are any) on their daughter’s special day. Tact and diplomacy should be paramount. Depending upon the circumstances, the “person of choice” should accompany the bride down the aisle. If there is a stepfather, some brides ask each gentleman to walk halfway

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



down the aisle with her. If the parents are cordial, Emily Post says they can share the first row. If they aren’t (and I am shortening this), the mother sits in the front row with her relatives behind her. The father and his relatives are seated behind his ex-wife’s family. (If the bride is estranged from her mother, the father and his family occupy the first rows.)

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Knock 4 Pile 8 Blacken on a grill 12 Outback bird 13 Killer whale 14 Uncivil 15 Reprieve authority 17 Rice-shaped pasta 18 Long step 19 AAA job 21 DDE's opponent 22 Topical antiseptic 26 Car in a Beach Boys song 29 Irritate 30 Estuary 31 Friend 32 Math ratios 33 Apple computers 34 "Crook-lyn" director Spike

35 Gridlock 36 "Olympia" artist 37 Arrow on a screen 39 Pouch 40 CEO's deg. 41 Noah's landfall 45 Crimson Tide, briefly 48 Thoroughfares 50 Say it's so 51 Rim 52 "Uh-huh" 53 On deck 54 Three- sloth 55 Snake's warning

DOWN 1 Agents, for short 2 Latin 101 word 3 Kitten's sound 4 Like a cobra 5 Sea birds 6 Tennis feat 7 Birthday bashes 8 Throng 9 "Ben- —" 10 Wood-shaping tool 11 Old Olds 16 Journal 20 Tic-tac-toe loser 23 Pakistan neighbor 24 Pleasing 25 Sunrise direction 26 Body powder 27 Chicken Cordon — 28 Robert of "The Sopranos" 29 Energy 32 Protec-tive wall 33 Showy parrot 35 Task 36 Obvious 38 Brainy 39 Army rank, casually 42 Beams 43 Pro votes 44 Recipe arnts. 45 Prohibit 46 "Hail, Caesar!" 47 Tex- cuisine 49 Ruckus

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-12

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Morrison, 45; Claire Danes, 45; Andy Garcia, 68; Ed O'Neill, 78.

Happy Birthday: Expand your awareness and explore possibilities. Contact experts, and make domestic changes to add to your comfort and happiness. Keep your emotions in check and listen to complaints before you act. How you handle financial and emotional situations will determine the outcome. Look at the big picture and do what's best for everyone. Don't let extravagance, excess and overreacting become your downfall. Your numbers are 9, 16, 21, 28, 35, 43, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Attend a reunion or event that connects you with people who share your interests or background. Offering insight will open a two-way conversation that will enhance your beliefs and add value to something you want to pursue. Romance is favored. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't promise more than you can deliver and you'll do remarkably well. Opportunities are heading your way, and picking up skills will position you for success. Update your resume or find a new way to promote what you have to offer. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Refuse to let anyone take over or ruin your day. Go where the action is and show everyone what you have to offer. Someone you least expect will show signs of jealousy. Don't give anyone the chance to put you down or damage your reputation. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Money, contracts and negotiations matter. Don't put your future in someone else's hands.

Take the initiative and be bold, and you will get what you want. Now is not the time to be shy; it's time to build confidence by showing everyone what you can offer. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't reveal too much information. Show compassion and be a good listener, but keep your personal life and opinions to yourself. The best way forward is to use your charm and skills to help. A reunion or chance meeting will lead to an exciting friendship. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Research will lead to something new and exciting. Taking an active role in your community will encourage networking and the potential to get ahead through the connections you make. Question the validity of something someone close to you says. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't settle for less when you want more. Align yourself with people who share your concerns and interests and offer benefits to help you reach your objective. Stop vacillating; take control and put your plan in motion. Love is on the rise. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be aware of how others react. An emotional incident can influence a change you want to pursue. Make it clear what you are willing to bring to the table to make your plan work. Put your energy into whatever brings the highest returns. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Push hard for what you want, but don't promise something you cannot honor. There will be a fine line between truth and false information, making it vital that you are clear regarding what you are willing to do and what you expect in return. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't engage in extravagant pastimes. Stick to a healthy, moderate lifestyle. Stay focused on being positive and achieving something that will help you advance. Make changes at home that will ease stress. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional situations will escalate quickly. Avoid joint financial ventures, lending to or borrowing from a friend or relative, and shared expenses. Concentrate on personal gain, self-improvement and finding out the truth or facts before you share information. How you conduct yourself reflects your status. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pay attention to detail. Put your energy into something meaningful. Say no to those trying to lead you astray or taking advantage of what you have to offer. Use your discipline, connections and money to further your goals. ***

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, helpful and courteous. You are prompt and motivated.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			4	8			6		7
	2	5	1					4	3
		9			6			1	
2				5					
	6				8		7		9
5				1			7	4	
9				2		3	6		
6			3		8	1			

Difficulty: ★★★★★

4/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	5	7	9	8	1	4	6	3
6	8	1	2	4	3	9	7	5
3	9	4	5	7	6	2	8	1
1	2	3	8	9	4	6	5	7
4	6	5	1	3	7	8	2	9
8	7	9	6	5	2	1	3	4
7	4	6	3	2	9	5	1	8
9	1	8	7	6	5	3	4	2
5	3	2	4	1	8	7	9	6

Difficulty: ★★★

4/11

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY

Solution: 10 letters

D	E	P	A	R	T	T	E	E	R	T	S	Y	A	B
T	O	U	R	I	S	T	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	O
I	A	C	O	N	N	E	C	T	I	O	N	F	L	A
R	U	C	K	O	R	U	O	H	H	S	U	L	R	
E	S	W	H	I	T	E	H	A	L	L	K	E	I	D
B	T	A	H	U	N	C	H	B	A	C	K	E	S	N
R	E	G	R	O	E	G	T	S	E	R	R	T	I	U
A	N	O	V	R	I	D	E	D	O	O	A	E	S	O
B	N	L	I	B	E	R	T	Y	B	T	S	R	L	R
W	O	L	E	T	A	S	W	R	U	G	U	M	A	G
E	T	I	W	F	T	E	A	E	A	R	D	I	N	Y
R	F	S	M	A	N	H	A	T	T	A	N	D	D	
D	I	M	O	L	I	N	A	R	I	S	R	A	C	N
N	L	B	R	O	N	X	C	I	T	N	A	L	T	A
A	C	I	R	E	M	A	F	O	T	I	R	I	P	S

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Andrew Barberi, Atlantic, Austen, Bay Street, Board, Boats, Bronx, Cars, Clifton, Connection, Deck, Depart, Docking, Ellis Island, Fares, Free, Harbor, Hunchback, Liberty, Manhattan, Molinari, New York, Ollis, Ride, Rush Hour, Sandy Ground, Service, Spirit of America, Statue, St. George, Terminal, Tourists, View, Whitehall
Yesterday's Answer: Folding

The NEW TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1 can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367.)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Cavaliers move closer to playoff spot beating Grizzlies



CLEVELAND (AP)—Donovan Mitchell scored 29 points, Jarrett Allen had 16 points and 10 rebounds and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Memphis Grizzlies 110-98 on Wednesday night to move within a victory of wrapping up a playoff spot.

All-Star shooting guard Mitchell, who has been bothered by left knee soreness for two months, also had eight assists in just his 10th game since Feb. 15. The Cavaliers have lost 11 of their last 17, but sit fourth in the Eastern Conference.

Cleveland would lock up a top-six finish and its second straight playoff appearance with a victory Friday night over Indiana or a win Sunday over Charlotte. Both games are at home.

Jake LaRavia scored a career-high 32 and made eight 3-pointers, and GG Jackson II had 22 points for injury-plagued Memphis, which has used an NBA-record 33 players this season. Scotty Pippen Jr. added 18 points and six assists.



Memphis Grizzlies' Scotty Pippen Jr., center, is defended by Cleveland Cavaliers' Jarrett Allen, right, and Isaac Okoro (35) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Cleveland, Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

HORNETS 115, HAWKS 114

ATLANTA (AP)—Miles Bridges made a layup with 3.8 seconds left and Charlotte

beat Atlanta to spoil Hawks star Trae Young's return from a finger injury.

After missing 23 games because of a torn ligament in his left pinkie, Young had 14 points

and 11 assists in 21 minutes while making each of his five shots from the field. He didn't play in the fourth quarter.

Brandon Miller led the Hornets with 27 points.

Bridges had 18.

Bogdan Bogdanovic and Vit Krejci each had 19 points for Atlanta, which suffered its fourth straight loss. Trent Forrest missed a last-second jumper

as the Hawks, 10th in the Eastern Conference, missed an opportunity to move within a half-game of No. 9 Chicago in the race for a home game to open the play-in tournament.

MAVERICKS 111, HEAT 92

MIAMI (AP)—Luka Doncic scored 29 points, Kyrie Irving added 25 and Dallas wrapped up the Southwest Division title by beating Miami.

Doncic also had nine rebounds and nine assists for Dallas, which will face the Los Angeles Clippers in the first round of the Western Conference playoffs—that series starting either April 20 or 21. It'll be the third opening-round matchup between those teams in the last four seasons; the Clippers won each of the first two.

Derrick Jones Jr., P.J. Washington and Daniel Gafford all finished with 12 points for Dallas.

Tyler Herro led the Heat with 21 points. Kevin Love had 16 points and 11 rebounds, Caleb Martin scored 14 and Jimmy Butler had 12 for the Heat.

NETS 106, RAPTORS 102

NEW YORK (AP)—Cam Thomas had 23 points, Dennis Schroder scored 15 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and Brooklyn rallied to beat Toronto.

Nic Claxton added 14 points, 11 rebounds and five blocked shots, and Noah Clowney had 10 points and a career-high seven blocks for the Nets in their final home game of the season. They finished 20-21 at Barclays Center.

Immanuel Quickley scored 32 points for Toronto. Grady Dick added a career-high 24.

BUCKS 117, MAGIC 99

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Bobby Portis had 30 points, nine rebounds and a career-high five steals to help Milwaukee withstand Giannis Antetokounmpo's absence and beat Orlando.

The Bucks played a night after Antetokounmpo left a 104-91 victory over the Boston Celtics because of a strained left calf. The Bucks announced Wednesday that the two-time MVP would miss the final three games of the regular season, though his availability for the start of the playoffs remains uncertain.

Damian Lillard had 29 points and eight assists for the Bucks, who improved to 4-3 in games Antetokounmpo has missed this season. Jae Crowder scored 14 points off the bench. Pat Beverley had 13 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Milwaukee (49-31) is 1 1/2 games ahead of New York (47-32) and two games ahead of Cleveland (47-33) in the race for the Eastern Conference's No. 2 playoff seed behind the Boston Celtics, who already have clinched the NBA's best

regular-season record.

THUNDER 127, SPURS 89

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 26 points in 26 minutes, and Oklahoma City rolled past Victor Wembanyama-less San Antonio.

Josh Giddey had 20 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists and Gordon Hayward added 18 points for the Thunder, who won their third straight and improved to 55-25 overall.

Zach Collins had 20 points and seven rebounds for the Spurs.

Wembanyama, one of the league's rising stars as a rookie, was out with an injured right ankle. Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said he was sitting Wembanyama because it was the second game of a back-to-back set and he was looking out for his star's long-term health. Popovich said before the game that the 20-year-old Wembanyama was not happy about being told to sit out.

NUGGETS 116, TIMBERWOLVES 107

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic scored 41 points and powered Denver past Minnesota and into sole possession of first place in the tight Western Conference playoff race with a win over the Timberwolves.

Jokic made 16 of 20 shots against the NBA's best defense while being guarded most of the night by the league's top defender, Rudy Gobert. Jamal Murray added 20 points in 27 minutes and Michael Porter Jr. scored 18.

Anthony Edwards led Minnesota with 25 points but was a non-factor in the fourth quarter as Denver pulled away. Mike Conley added 19 points for the Wolves.

The Nuggets (56-24) took a one-game lead over Minnesota and Oklahoma City, who are both 55-25. The Thunder wallowed San Antonio 127-89 on Wednesday night to stay within striking distance of the West's top seed.

SUNS 124, CLIPPERS 108

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Devin Booker scored 37 points, Bradley Beal added 26 and Phoenix rallied in the fourth quarter to beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

The victory was payback for the Suns after they were embarrassed in the first quarter the previous night in Phoenix. That's when the Clippers led 35-4 and went ahead by 37 in the second quarter before the Suns got close only to lose 105-92.

The result Wednesday locked Golden State and Los Angeles Lakers into the play-in tournament. The Suns are seventh in the West, a half-game behind New Orleans for the sixth and final guaranteed playoff spot.

Silver says gambling probe of Toronto's Jontay Porter could lead to banishment from league

NEW YORK (AP)—Toronto's Jontay Porter could face expulsion from the league if the gambling-related accusations against him are found to be true, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said Wednesday.

Silver, speaking after a two-day meeting of the league's Board of Governors, did not reveal any specifics about the investigation surrounding Porter, other than saying the probe is ongoing. Porter has not played since the league said it was looking into betting patterns surrounding his on-court performance.

"I have enormous range of discipline available to me," Silver said. "It's cardinal sin what he's accused of in the NBA. The ultimate extreme option I have is to ban him from the game. That's the level of authority I have here because there's nothing more serious."

ESPN first reported the investigation, which it said surrounded Porter's performance in games on Jan. 26 and March 20. In both of those games, Porter played briefly before leaving citing injury or illness—and did not come close to the numbers that were offered to bettors as prop wagers in those contests. That means those who basically bet against Porter would have cashed in, because he left those games before reaching the lines set by sportsbooks for his points and rebounds in those contests.

Some sportsbooks have said

they were alerted to odd betting patterns surrounding the Porter prop offerings in those games, which means it's likely that the league—which has business relationships with many wagering companies—may have received some of that same information.

"I mean, this is not new that there's unsavory behavior, even illegal behavior, around sports betting," Silver said. "I guess my point is that to the extent it's going to exist, if you have a regulated environment, you're going to have a better chance of detecting it than you would if all the bets were placed illegally."

Porter was listed as out, with the team citing personal reasons, for the 10th consecutive game on Wednesday with the Raptors in Brooklyn to take on the Nets. The Raptors finish the season with games at Miami on Friday and Sunday. Porter's absence started almost simultaneously to the revelation that the NBA was probing the betting patterns surrounding his games.

Other items from Silver's news conference:

TIMBERWOLVES SALE

Silver said he didn't expect the NBA to have a role in the dispute over the proposed ownership transfer of the Minnesota Timberwolves from Glen Taylor to former Major League Baseball star Alex Rodriguez and Marc Lore, but may have to recon-

sider if it would allow a similar sales process in the future.

Taylor said last month the duo hadn't met all of the deadlines for the condition of the sale and that he was no longer selling. Lore and Rodriguez, who already own about a 40% stake, had agreed to the purchase nearly three years ago. They bought about 20% of the franchise in 2021 and another portion of around 20% in 2023.

Silver said part of the sale structure was necessitated because the deal was struck in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I think let's wait to see how this one works out, but it's certainly not ideal to have a stepped transaction like this," Silver said. "It met our rules from that standpoint, and it's what Glen Taylor wanted and it's what they were willing to agree to at the time. But I think once the dust clears on this deal, it may cause us to reassess what sort of transactions we should allow."

FOUL CALLS

Silver said foul calls dropped by about four per game later in the season after a series of high-scoring games in the first half. A night after the Boston Celtics became the first team in NBA history to attempt no free throws and combined with the Milwaukee Bucks for a record-low two attempts in a game, Silver said the league likes the

way the games look now.

"I think there was a sense earlier in the season that there was too much of an advantage for the offensive players, whether—I think Steve Kerr said offensive players were using themselves as projectiles or hunting for fouls, however you want to call it. So that was a point of emphasis on behalf of the league," Silver said.

"So yes, there was a bit of an adjustment made along the way. But again, the context is two fouls per team per game, and the end result, most importantly, we think is a better game."

EXPANSION

Silver reiterated that the NBA won't move forward with any expansion plans until it has completed its new media rights deals. The league is currently in an exclusive negotiating period with its two main partners, the Disney Company and Warner Bros. Discovery, and he said talks had been positive.

Seattle and Las Vegas have long been speculated as the cities that will get teams when the league grows beyond its current 30 teams. But Silver said all prospective buyers have been told the league isn't ready yet.

"There aren't private conversations happening right now," Silver said. "No one has an inside track to getting a deal done, that at the time we will, with our committee, look at the cities that are interested, talk to the groups that are interested and then go from there."

Mariners score 5 runs in the 10th inning to beat the Blue Jays



TORONTO
(AP)—Cal

Raleigh hit a two-run home run in the 10th inning and the Seattle Mariners beat the Toronto Blue Jays 6-1 on Wednesday to avoid a three-game sweep.

Raleigh connected on the first pitch he saw from Blue Jays left-hander Tim Mayza (0-1). The homer was Raleigh's second of the season.

Ty France hit an RBI double and Mitch Haniger added a two-run single in the five-run 10th as Seattle snapped a three-game losing streak and won for the second time in eight games.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his third home run of the season, a 459-foot solo blast, but the Blue Jays left the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth against Mariners right-hander Andrés Muñoz.

The Blue Jays managed just a pair of singles through six innings against Mariners right-hander Logan Gilbert, but erased a 1-0 deficit in the seventh when Guerrero led off with a drive into the second deck.



Seattle Mariners catcher Cal Raleigh (29) hits the game winning two run home run during the tenth inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays in Toronto on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

TWINS 3, DODGERS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Edouard Julien homered twice and scored three runs for Minnesota to spark a slumping lineup and lead to a victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Julien entered the afternoon in a 3-for-28 start to the season. He led off the first and fifth innings with opposite field drives into the bleachers in left for his first career multi-homer game.

Max Muncy homered and Teoscar Hernández hit an RBI double for the Dodgers. Their opportunity to tie the game in the sixth was thwarted when Shohei Ohtani was thrown out by Carlos Correa at home to end that inning.

PHILLIES 4, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS (AP)—J.T. Realmuto had two hits and scored two runs and Aaron Nola pitched six innings, leading Philadelphia to a 4-3 victory over St. Louis.

Realmuto was back in the starting lineup, hitting cleanup. He left Tuesday's game after he was hit in the throat area on a Zack Wheeler wild pitch in the seventh inning.

Brandon Marsh and Nick Castellanos each drove in a run in the sixth to break a 2-2 tie.

GIANTS 7, NATIONALS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Nick Ahmed and Tyler Fitzgerald had three hits apiece and Jordan Hicks allowed one run in six innings as San Francisco avoided a three-game series sweep with a 5-1 win over the Washington.

Hicks (2-0) has allowed one

earned run or less in each of his first three starts this season after signing a \$44 million, four-year contract with San Francisco this offseason. The 27-year-old right-hander allowed four hits and had two strikeouts.

Ahmed drove in two runs and scored three times, while Fitzgerald stole two bases and scored twice.

Joey Gallo homered for Washington, his third of the season.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, ROCKIES 3

DENVER (AP)—Eugenio Suárez hit a two-out, two-run double in the ninth inning and Arizona came back to beat Colorado to win the series.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. added two hits and two RBIs for the Diamondbacks, including an RBI double in the seventh inning to tie it at 3-all. Blaze Alexander, filling in for injured shortstop Geraldo Perdomo, homered in the second for Arizona, which has taken five of seven meetings this season against Colorado.

Michael Toglia had a two-run homer and Ezequiel Tovar added three hits for the Rockies (3-10), who hit double digits in the loss column two weeks into the season.

Arizona's Tommy Henry went five innings and allowed three runs—two earned—on four hits. He struck out six.

RAYS 4, ANGELS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—José Caballero homered, Tampa Bay scored two runs on a wild pitch in the first inning,

and wrapped up their road trip with a 4-2 victory over the Los Angeles Angels.

Zack Littell allowed just one run despite giving up six hits and three walks while pitching into the fifth inning for Tampa Bay, which won four of five after losing the first game of the trip at Colorado last week.

Jo Adell homered and Zach Neto had an RBI single for the Angels, who have lost three of four. Los Angeles has also lost three of its first four series this season after closing out this 2-4 homestand.

PADRES 10, CUBS 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Dylan Cease pitched six strong innings and Jurickson Profar had a go-ahead double and a two-run homer among his three hits for San Diego, who beat the Chicago Cubs to take two of three in the series.

Jake Cronenworth also homered to back Cease (1-1), who pitched for the Chicago White Sox for five seasons before being traded to the Padres during spring training. Cease improved to 3-2 against the Cubs. He allowed just two hits and no earned runs while striking out seven and walking two. Chicago had only three hits.

GUARDIANS 7, WHITE SOX 6, 10 INNINGS

CLEVELAND (AP)—Bo Naylor and Josh Naylor delivered RBI hits in the 10th inning as Cleveland rallied for a win over the Chicago White Sox.

Josh Naylor tied it with an RBI double before turning it

over to his little brother—on National Siblings Day.

With the bases loaded, Bo Naylor, who hit a two-run homer earlier in the game—the same inning his brother connected—dropped his single into right field off former Guardians reliever Bryan Shaw (0-1) as Cleveland came back after trailing 5-0.

Eli Morgan (1-0) picked up the win as the Guardians improved to 9-3, their best start since going 11-1 in 2002.

Steven Kwan also homered for Cleveland.

MARLINS 5, YANKEES 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Jake Burger hit a three-run homer on his 28th birthday and Miami beat New York for just their second win this season.

Ryan Weathers (1-1) allowed three hits and three walks in five scoreless innings for the Marlins, who at 2-11 had matched the team record for worst 12-game start set in 1998. Weathers got his first big league win in almost a year, since defeating the New York Mets for San Diego on April 11 last year.

New York dropped to 10-3 as the Marlins stopped the Yankees' four-game winning streak.

Giancarlo Stanton homered in the sixth off Bryan Hoewing for his third home run in five games and fourth this season. Stanton's home run was his first against the Marlins—his original team—and he has now homered against all 30 clubs.

ORIOLES 7, RED SOX 5

BOSTON (AP)—Jordan Westburg hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning and Baltimore erased a five-run deficit to beat Boston.

Boston wasted a strong start by Kutter Crawford, who threw five scoreless innings. He allowed two hits and four walks with six strikeouts and a hit batter.

Cole Irvin started for Baltimore, giving up five runs on seven hits and three walks in five innings. He struck out four.

Triston Casas hit a two-run homer to give the Red Sox a 5-0 lead in the fifth.

The Orioles scored three times in the sixth, with four consecutive hits off reliever Isaiah Campbell to open the inning. Holliday snapped the streak with a groundout that drove in a run.

ROYALS 11, ASTROS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Vinnie Pasquantino broke out of an early season slump with a home run and a career-high five RBIs to lead Kansas City to a win over Houston for their sixth straight victory.

Pasquantino went 3 for 3 with a single, double, homer and a walk with two runs scored after entering the game 4 for 37 with four singles and no RBIs.

The Royals scored seven times in the third inning, jumpstarted by Pasquantino's two-run double. Kansas City, which had eight runs in the seventh against the Chicago White Sox on April 4, have multiple innings of seven or

more runs in April for the first time since 2000.

Seth Lugo (2-0) allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings. It was the Royals' ninth quality start in 12 games, the most in the majors.

RANGERS 6, ATHLETICS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Cody Bradford struck out seven in another strong start, Adolis García had a two-run single among three hits and Texas Rangers beat Oakland, stopping a three-game losing streak.

Jonah Heim had a tiebreaking two-run single for Texas in the first inning as Oakland's three-game winning streak ended. Tyler Nevin's first-inning single had given the A's a 1-0 lead.

Bradford (3-0) allowed five hits in 6 2/3 innings, including Darell Hernaiz's first in the big leagues on a single in the seventh. Zack Gelof homered leading off the eighth against Texas reliever Yerry Rodríguez.

Bradford lowered his ERA to 1.40 with wins in all three starts for the World Series champs, and lefty hitters are 0-for-27 against him going back to last September, including the postseason. He was replaced after his only walk—to left-handed No. 9 hitter Lawrence Butler.

BREWERS 7, REDS 2

CINCINNATI (AP)—Christian Yelich hit a two-run homer and Wade Miley came off the injury list to pitch four innings of one-hit ball to lift Milwaukee to a win over Cincinnati.

The 37-year-old Miley started the season on in the injury list because of pain in his throwing shoulder. He was activated before the game Wednesday and got the nod because so many of Milwaukee's top pitchers are ailing.

Miley, who threw a no-hitter when he was with the Reds in 2021, was limited to 52 pitches and allowed just a run and a hit. Bryse Wilson (1-0) pitched the fifth, sixth and seventh innings to get win.

Blake Perkins also homered for the Brewers. William Contreras singled home two as part of Milwaukee's three-run second inning, and Jackson Chourio also had two RBIs.

Reds starter Hunter Greene (0-1) allowed six earned runs and six hits through six innings. He struck out nine but allowed the homers to Yelich and Perkins.

Reds shortstop Elly De La Cruz rocketed a solo homer to left in the fifth inning that came off the bat at 110.4 mph. De La Cruz has hits in 11 of 12 games this season and has reached base in 17 consecutive games dating back to Sept. 26.

TSL Foundation, Tan Holdings named Founders Club Sponsor



The Joeten Daidai Foundation proudly announces Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Tan Holdings as the first Founders Club Sponsor for the highly anticipated 2024 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic.

JDF would like to extend a sincere un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase to Tan Holdings and the TSL Foundation for their ongoing commitment to the people of CNMI through their acts of generosity. Their contribution of \$7,500 as a Founders Club sponsorship will play a vital role in advancing JDF's mission in the years to come.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Tan Holdings has signed up as the first Founders Club Sponsor for the highly anticipated 2024 Joeten Memorial Golf Classic.

"We are deeply appreciative of like-minded organizations such as Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Tan Holdings, who recognize and value the talent and excellence within the CNMI, particularly in fostering our youth," said JDF executive director Patty T. Palacios. "They have been a pillar in our community and the Joeten Daidai Foundation is excited to continue our charitable work alongside TSL."

Jerry Tan, president and CEO of Tan Holdings, said "Tan Holdings joins the NMI community in congratulating Joeten for its 75th anniversary celebration and thanking the Joeten family for serving our islands for more than seven decades. We wish Joeten the best of luck as it holds the Joeten Memorial

Golf Classic this year, and other activities that benefit our community. Joeten's continued commitment to giving back to our community is an inspiration to us and we, at Tan Holdings, are honored to have this partnership with Joeten and to support their golf tournament held in memory of the company's founder, Jose 'Joeten' Camacho Tenorio."

The prestigious golf event at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort on July 6 promises camaraderie and spirited competition among regional golfers.

For more information on how to support this event, you may contact JMGC committee chair Shigeki Tenorio at (670) 234-6446 or email joetenmgc@joeten.com. (PR)

JKPL 5K Fun Run/Walk this Saturday

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The 2024 Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 5K Community Fun Run/Walk is set for tomorrow, April 13, at 5pm.

The starting line is at the Garapan Public Market back parking lot at the Garapan Fishing Base, then to Quarter Master Road and back.

JKPL in a press release said, "Lace up your running/walking shoes and wear your best

literary character costume for a great cause! Celebrate School Library Month and National Library Week by signing up for the 3rd Annual Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 5K Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, April 13, 2024."

"All proceeds will go to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 2024 Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, ensuring that children in our community have access to great books and educational activities," said JKPL's press release.

Online registration is at <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/85937/friends-of-the-joeten-kiyu-public-library->

community-fun-run-walk

The event is free for children 12 years old and below. There will be no refunds. Please note, \$10 is not inclusive of the processing fee from Race Roster. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For added fun, join the Literary Character Costume Contest for a chance to win \$150.

Registration for the Literary Character Costume Contest is on the same day from 3pm to 4:45pm. The contest is open only to race/walk participants. All minor participants of the costume contest must be accompanied by a participating parent/guardian of the race/walk. Library card holders preferred.

In addition to the fun, a Zumba pre-warm-up with Saipan

Unity Lions Club with Zin Abby Whang and an auction for BIB#001 will take place before the run/walk.

Also in the press release, it said, "We welcome and encourage businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit (ETC). Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404."

"Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at www.cnmilib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupublicli-

brary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: Joeten-Kiyu Public Library or visit our website www.cnmilib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community."

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said of the event, "Run Saipan will always be a proud partner of the Joeten-

Kiyu Public Library. This is our third year supporting them with a 5K fundraiser for the Friends of the Joeten Kiyu. I hope to see everyone this Saturday to support not only National Library Week but also the JKPL. I hope to see at least all librarians across the [Public School System] at the start line this weekend."

NMI

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In the boys 14 doubles division, the NMI's doubles partners Matthew Hwang and Jihun Park made it to the finals and will take on Guam's Jeren Devera and Jacob Hsiao. In the girls 14 doubles division, the NMI's doubles duo of Anne Lee and Lina Tsukagoshi and NMI doubles partners Vivian Chung and Jenna Pascual made it to the semis.

The NMI's Henry Choi and June Yu advanced to the semis

of the boys 16 doubles division, along with the NMI's Si Woo Lee and Nason Wessel. And, in the girls 16 doubles division, Irin Chung and Hoo Wang made it to the semis with NMI's Hannah Chae and Anna Kwon.

After pool play last Wednesday, all players were thrown in a draw based on their finish, and there is no need to rank the players now in the playoffs. The Top 4 winners at the end of the tourney on Saturday will compete in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championship in Lautoka, Fiji this July.

BAT

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the message effectively and reach out to the community... at the same time, we're advocating for our victims and we're trying to promote awareness and prevent child abuse and neglect."

The tourney spanned four days which began last April 4, and Sablan said they've always had a full house of spectators. With that, she said she feels like they've accomplished what they set out to do, which was to reach as many families as they could.

With their recent release of child abuse/neglect statistics, which was at an all-time high, Sablan's message to the community was, "We're here to

help and do not be afraid because asking for help is a sign of strength. We're here to provide the support that families need in order for them to thrive and be sufficient in the community and have a healthy and strong family," she said. "Our goal is family reunification. We do what we need to do, then return the kids once the families have met their services."

Barcinas then thanked their volunteers, partnering agencies, donors, members of the 23rd CNMI Legislature, fans, the teams, and community for their support in DYS' mission to strike-out child abuse and neglect in the CNMI.

"Shoutout to teams: Kari-

nessa Lizama to win, 9-8.

In the semis this Sunday, BDE is facing off against the 670 Magas Babes, and Bat & Boujee is challenging the Lady Blue Jays.

In the master's division, Tokahao bid Wazzup adieu, 15-5.

The game was going on quietly, with not a peep from both teams until the third inning when Wazzup's Joe Lizama hit a three-run homer for a 3-0 lead.



LEIGH GASES

Third place Team Atoma poses for a photo after the first ever DYS Co-ed Strike-out Child Abuse Softball Tournament last Sunday at the Capital Hill Softball Field.

dat, Adawayyy, Glove Affairs, ChamLau, What The Heck, Dirty Harry, Ejai, Bat & Boujee, Luchan, Elusive Kulture, DeeWhyEss, Atoma, Blue

Jays, and Exotic-Young Gunz. "Thank you all for helping us strike out child abuse! Because every child deserves to go home safe," said Barcinas.

game ended early as Wazzup failed to catch up and scored just one more run for a 15-5 final.

Tokahao's Mark Villagomez, Geoff Cruz, Kolani Castro, Peter Camacho, and Manny Villagomez each scored twice for the team.

In other results, Peliliu beat Hagu Lamun, 11-7; 15-5; Man Amigos destroyed Redmen, 17-5; and Sufa doubled up on Tuturamz, 20-10.

BDE

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make it 6-5.

Bat & Boujee remained scoreless in the sixth as Boleras added two more for a bigger lead of 8-5. But then, Bat & Boujee recovered in the last inning where it mattered the most and scored four runs made by Janice Celis, Rona Ogumoro, Virly Secharmidal, and Char-



LEIGH GASES

NMI's boys 16 division player Nason Wessel goes for a backhand return during his matchup last Wednesday in the North Pacific Regional Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



LEIGH GASES

NMI's boys 16 division player June Yu makes a leaping return during his match last Wednesday in the North Pacific Regional Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



**Cavaliers
move closer
to playoff
spot beating
Grizzlies.**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**TSL Foundation,
Tan Holdings
named
Founders Club
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI netters advance as playoffs start

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER

The playoffs stage started on Day 4 of the North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts, with multiple NMI netters advancing as they won their matches.



LEIGH GASES

NMI's girls 14 division player Lina Tsukagoshi returns a serve during her match last Tuesday in the North Pacific Regional Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The NMI was on fire just as the Saipan sun was and racked up 23 wins as of press time.

In the boys 16 division, June

Yu, Siwoo Lee, Henry Choi, and Nason Wessel dumped their foes in the quarterfinals to advance to the semis today. Lee will face off with Yu and Choi will go up against Wessel.

Yu defeated Guam's Oliver Schaumann, 6-2, 6-3; Lee made light work of Guam's John Hoh, 6-1, 6-0; Choi got the better of Federated States of Micronesia's Dontrick Daniel, 6-1, 6-2; and Wessel muscled his way past Guam's Leonardo Tamandong, 6-1, 6-2.

In the girls 16 division, the Fi-

nal Four are NMI's Irin Chung and Hoo Wang, Guam's Leila Mercado, and FSM's Louisa Williams. Chung and Wang will go head-to-head in the semis today, along with Mercado vs. Williams.

Chung clinched the semis spot after a win against the NMI's Anna Kwon, 6-3, 6-0;

Wang discarded Palau's Sorai Nakamura, 6-1, 6-0; Mercado breezed past FSM's Aja Skilling; and Williams routed NMI's Hannah Chae, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

In the girls 14 division, the NMI's Anne Lee and Lina Tsukagoshi made it to the semis, just as Guam's Leah San Agustin and Faith Perera

punched their tickets too. Lee is facing off against San Agustin, while Tsukagoshi will take on Perera today.

Anne Lee powered past Guam's Rachel San Agustin, 6-0, 6-1; Tsukagoshi routed Guam's Emely Rosario, 6-1, 6-0; while Leah San Agustin heavily defeated teammate Lana Noble, 6-0, 6-0, and Perera beat Palau's Shy Sadang, 6-0, 6-1.

In the boys 14 division, the NMI's Ryan Choi and Ian Chae made it to the semis, while Guam's Jacob Hsiao and Jeren Devera did as well. It will be Choi vs. Hsiao and Chae vs. Devera today.

Choi brought down teammate Matthew Hwang, 6-0, 6-1; Chae took on teammate Jihun Park and won, 6-1, 6-4; Hsiao edged teammate Malachi O'Brien, 6-0, 6-1; and Devera defeated FSM's Prinze Skilling, 6-1, 6-1.

In the boys 12 division, the NMI's Cody Park, Seung Woo Lee, and Kijoon Park advanced to the semis; and in the girls 12 division, the NMI's Stella Choi and Emma Lang advanced to the semis that are all scheduled for today.

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BDE, Bat & Boujee advances to semis; Tokahao notch win

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER



BDE and Bat & Boujee announced their arrival to the semis of the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association league women's division after their win in the quarter finals last Sunday at the Dandan Softball Field.

BDE took on Lady Sufa and rallied to win, 11-8.

BDE had the first and last laugh after they rounded the bases first and scored the essential three runs in the seventh to win it.

Lady Sufa had a slow start and scored just one in the first for a 1-3 game, but scored two in the fifth and five in the sixth to catch up with BDE and tie it, 8-8. BDE then came in at the top of the seventh and gave it their all as the top three in their lineup, Lynnae Cabrera, Oly Fritz, and Keona Tudela scored to take the lead back, 11-8.

For Bat & Boujee, they scored just enough runs to win by a run, 9-8, over



LEIGH GASES

BDE's pitcher Jovie Omar throws a pitch during one of their games in the 2024 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association league women's division at the Dandan Softball Field.

the Boleras.

The Boleras led 3-2 at the end of the first, but couldn't hold on as Bat & Boujee scored three more in the second. The Boleras' bats had nothing to show from the second to the fourth, and finally broke through in the fifth with three runs from C.J. Lizama, Malia Pangelinan, and Vickyann Pangelinan to

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Bat & Boujee champs of DYS Strike-out Child Abuse softball tourney

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER

Team Bat & Boujee won the first ever DYS Co-ed Strike-out Child Abuse Softball Tournament last Sunday at the Capital Hill Softball Field.



They won \$300 along with championship bragging rights after outscoring second place Team Karidat, 20-6.

Team Karidat received \$200 for their second-place finish.

In the championship last Sunday afternoon, Karidat and Bat & Boujee got their bats cracking early on for a 4-3 Karidat lead. Karidat's Luis Iguel Jr. and Jesus Iguel both scored RBI home runs, while Bat & Boujee's Juan Iguel, Mar, and Irvin Saralu scored.

Bat & Boujee then took the lead in the second from another homer by Juan Iguel and a homerun by Kimo Angailen, plus more runs from the rest of the lineup to make it 11-4.

Bat & Boujee's pitching held down Karidat's batting for the rest of the game as they

scored only two more runs. On the other hand, Bat & Boujee went on to score nine more for a 20-6 final.

Bat & Boujee consisted of Lorna Iginoef, Rona Ogumoro, Lamarc Iguel, Janica Iguel, Virly Sechamidal,

Joron Fital, Patrick Jr., Joshua Iginoef, Sina Ruben, Kimo Angailen, Juan Iguel, Pauline Iguel, Jobe Reyes, Nokki Saralu, Mike Iguel, Choi Santos, Irvin Saralu, Charnessa Lizama, and Giovanni Mira.

Team Karidat was made up of McCain Reginald, Athena Wabol, Aries Wabol, Ton Salas, Raven Santos, Luis Iguel Jr., Joey Dela Cruz, Casey Mendiola, T.J. Dela Cruz, Kazu Dela Cruz, Vileene Norita, Magdalena Lisua, Nicole Ongtung, Jordan Suel, Jesus Iguel, and Jay Camacho.

Third place went to Team Atoma with a prize of \$100.

Department of Youth Services-Child Protective Services intervention specialist Mariah Barcinas said it was a first of its kind event in celebration of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Champions Bat & Boujee poses for a photo after the DYS Co-ed Strike-out Child Abuse Softball Tournament last Sunday at the Capital Hill Softball Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Second place Team Karidat poses for a photo after the DYS Co-ed Strike-out Child Abuse Softball Tournament last Sunday at the Capital Hill Softball Field.

the Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month campaign this month.

DYS director Vivian Sablan

said of the event that it's a way to reach out to the community. "We want to be able to spread

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